Hafa Adai!

CUC completes water, wastewater infrastructure projects worth $5.58M. PAGE 3
Boonie Flight Project to ship 38 homeless animals to US. PAGE 5

$1

Saipan Tribune

LEIGH GASES
Marianas High School students are seen walking the hallways of the campus, heading to their classrooms, and greeting friends during the first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year yesterday morning.

PSS welcomes back students

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The much-anticipated first day of the 2023-2024 school year dawned yesterday as students and teachers across the CNMI Public School System returned to the classrooms after a well-deserved summer break.

As of yesterday, there were 8,896 registered students in PSS across all

See PSS on Page 4

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 167
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23, 2023
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Lover's spat leads to crash

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw its second auto-pedestrian crash last Monday along Middle Road in Chalan Lau Lau, with a man being hit by a car after he allegedly deliberately walked into oncoming traffic. It was learned that a couple just had a spat and one tried to cross the street from a local supermarket into traffic, leading to the accident.

Last Monday evening,

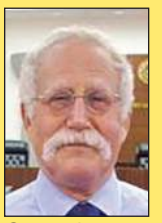
See LOVER on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
38

Judges Govendo, Bogdan are retiring

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bogdan


Govendo

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja informed Gov. Arnold I. Palacios yesterday that associate judges Kenneth L. Govendo and Wesley M. Bogdan will be retiring soon.

In joint letter to Palacios, Castro and Naraja said that Bogdan and Govendo will be retiring in December 2023 and June 2024, respectively.

"As their departures approach, we wish to respectfully request your timely consideration in nominating suitable candidates to fill these esteemed positions," Castro and

See JUDGES on Page 4

Jorgensen: Nomination's withdrawal was unsurprising

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawyer Bruce Lee Jorgensen said yesterday that Commonwealth Ports Authority board members are politically appointed, so it is not surprising that politics played out behind Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' decision to withdraw his nomination to the CPA board.

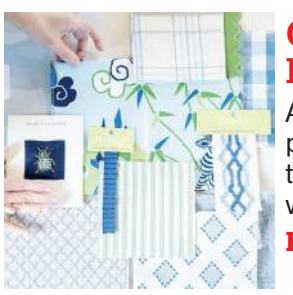
In response to Saipan Tribune's request for comments about the withdrawal of his nomination, Jorgensen said he does not know the political considerations, angles, or dealings that may have been discussed by and between Palacios and the Senate leadership, so he will leave it up to them to provide any such details.

See JORGENSEN on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Atkins Kroll Inc. unveiled its first-ever BMW i7, Guam's first all-electric luxury sedan.
PAGE 11

NATION
President Joe Biden promises that the government will help "for as long as it takes" Maui to recover.
PAGE 12



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
As a mother and a passionate advocate, there's a joy that comes with designing nurseries.
PAGE 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

LEIGH GASES

Hopwood Middle School is back to full-day classes for the 2023-2024 school year, from Tuesday through Friday. Seen here is the drop off/pick up schedule in the car drop off/pick up area at the campus yesterday morning.

Hopwood Middle School back to full-day schedule

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five years since the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 that leveled almost the entire campus, Hopwood Middle School is now back to a full-day class schedule from Tuesday to Friday at their original campus in Afetna.

HMS principal Victorino Borja said yesterday morning that the first day of school went "pretty smoothly." Considering that the entire Beach Road leading to the Hopwood campus is under heavy construction, Borja said the traffic flow, surprisingly, "wasn't so bad."

To facilitate the flow of traffic, he said the bus drop off/pick up and car drop off/pickup area are separated into two areas—the bus drop off/pick up is at the main entrance on the north side of the school, while the car drop off/pick up is at the field area on the south side.

This school year, he said there are about 618 enrolled students, with a few more registered students they need to follow up on.

As to what led to the full-day class schedule from 8am to 3:15 for Tuesday through Friday—with Mondays designated as half days, Borja said their previous school year's schedules of double sessions and remote learning were not too beneficial for students academically.

The decision to revert to a full class schedule was a big decision, he said. "It's not just with the administration. We had to discuss this with our stakeholders, our teachers, and students. I know a lot of students, they liked the double sessions when they could sleep in…but at the same time, parents really wanted to have more instructional time with their kids."

Therefore, for this school year, they decided to provide more instructional time and go back to a full class schedule. In order to do that, while the HMS campus is not fully rebuilt, and while they are waiting for temporary classrooms, Borja said that they decided to be creative and came up with the concept of "team teaching."

Team teaching is when "we have two teachers in the classroom at the same time—and that's how we're allowed to go full schedule with the limited classrooms that we have. So, it's two teachers and two subjects. Usually, it's the same grade level and the same subject. There are a few that are the same grade level but different subjects, such as a CTE class and music, or computer class. Both teachers are there but they just split up the periods. Like in the first period, it would be music class, then the last period would be computer class, and then in the second semester, they will switch."

With two teachers in the class, "sometimes it can be challenging when they have different styles, but ultimately, it's for the kids. And I think because we have that same shared goal for student learning, that's why we're able to do this. So far, it's going smoothly. Of course, we might have some hiccups along the way, but as a team, we'll get through it moving forward."

At the beginning of the school year, the campus has 20 usable classrooms as they await the temporary classrooms that are modular and not tarp material for more security and in case of storms.

The rest of the campus is strewn with broken wreckage of old classroom buildings destroyed by Yutu. When asked for updates as to when a new campus will be built, Borja said that it's a lengthy process.

Borja said that FEMA awarded PSS in 2020 with about $20 million for repairs, "but the process is not just with PSS. It's through the government and FEMA and it's kind of a lengthy process. …The plan is to at least get the temporary classrooms so that we have enough classrooms for the teachers and students. And then, eventually, repair or renovate our buildings. That's all the updates I have right now. The money is there, but other than that, like the actual process, I don't have specific details on that."

After Yutu, HMS class schedules were divided into morning sessions (8am to 11:40am) and afternoon sessions (11:55 am to 3:55pm) from Tuesday through Friday. On Monday, the schedule was 8am to 12pm online.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS
Don't miss out!
GET THE LATEST NEWS DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO YOUR INBOX.
Local Offers
Receive occasional local offers from our website and its advertisers.
Local Sports
Get the latest headlines on local sports!
Local Weather
Get our expert short-term forecast, summary of the weather details and news of any severe weather.
News Alerts
We'll send breaking news and news alerts to you as they happen!
Other Marketing Mailers
Saipan Tribune e-Edition
Receive our newspaper electronically with the e-Edition email.
Special Supplement
Taga Plus
Get the latest Taga Plus headlines!
Weekly Best of Saipan Tribune
Best trending stories from the week.
Select All /
www.saipantribune.com

CUC completes water, wastewater infrastructure projects worth $5.58M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has completed within this fiscal year several federally-funded water and wastewater infrastructure projects with a total cost of $5.58 million.

In her presentation during the CUC board meeting last Thursday, CUC project manager Nicolette Villagomez said that CUC has been very busy in terms of upgrading the existing water and wastewater infrastructure.

Villagomez

Villagomez, who is a civil engineer, said the total costs for the water and wastewater projects were $2.62 million and $2.95 million, respectively.

All projects were funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Aside from getting EPA funding, the Granular Activated Carbon Changeout Project got $500,000 in funding share from the American Rescue Plan Act, while the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant-Primary Screen Project got $642,419 in funding share from a Saipan local appropriation.

A notable water project is the Isley Booster 2 Transmission Main and Booster Pump Upgrade, which was completed recently, Villagomez said. She said this pumps water to the Dandan tank service area.

She said they completed the islandwide water meter installation and were also able to recently finish the Granular Activated Carbon Changeout project at 10 wells within the Isley and the Obyan wellfields.

For the wastewater projects, Villagomez said CUC just recently completed the A-2 Sewer Lift Station and A-6 Sewer Lift Stations. She said these lift stations, which are located on the south side of Saipan, pump wastewater to the Agingan Treatment Plant.

The project manager said they also completed the purchase and installation of the sludge dewatering equipment in the Sadog Tasi and Agingan wastewater treatment plants, and the purchase and installation of a primary screen at the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant.

'CUC is managing $89.2M in federal funds for water, wastewater projects'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is currently managing a total of $89.2 million in federal grants, mostly coming from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for its water and wastewater systems projects.

In his presentation during the CUC board meeting last Thursday, Larry Manacop, who is acting chief engineer of the CUC Water/Wastewater Division, disclosed the various funds that they have received from fiscal years 2017 to 2013.

Manacop said the funding for fiscal year 2017 will expire on Sept. 30, 2023, but they made good progress this year, making sure that EPA does not get the money back.

"There may be a couple of $100,000, but I think we will be able to get that back," he said, adding that their engineering and operations team really worked hard to make sure that the funds were properly spent on the projects.

He said majority of their funding sources for water and wastewater projects are the EPA.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In his presentation during the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board meeting last Thursday, Water and Wastewater Division acting chief engineer Larry Manacop, extreme left, talks about, among other things, federal grants in the total amount of $89.2 million that they are currently managing for water, wastewater projects in the CNMI.

Manacop said EPA has the State Revolving Funds that provide about $5 million to $6 million a year to CUC.

These past two years, though, they've been getting about $26 million because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, he said.

"So that's a big boost to our projects and that's what's keeping us really busy. So that's about $76 million from EPA," he said.

Manacop said they also have the Economic Development Administration- funded project for the Granular Activated Carbon to treat water wells.

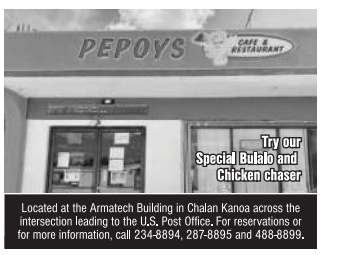
With respect to American Rescue Plan Act funds, he said they were fortunate to get $8.2 million for both water and wastewater projects. Manacop said they got $1.5 million from the Department of the Interior.

He said they are also working with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. for the Community Development Block Grant for a contract to design three water tanks—the Dandan, Kagman, and Tinian tanks. Manacop said they're replacing the steel tanks with concrete prestressed tanks, which are more resilient to typhoon and even earthquakes.

"These tanks will last maybe 100 years," he said.

Manacop said they have some grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which will provide about 10 generators for water well sites.

He said they also recently got a grant under the Hazard Mitigation Program, which will allow them to install generators for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant and 10 lift stations.


PEPOYS
CAFE & RESTAURANT
Try our
Special Bulalo and
Chicken chaser
Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

JKPL to resume regular hours

Effective Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will resume normal library hours.

- JKPL's normal hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thursday: 10am to 6pm
- Friday: 1:30pm to 7pm
- Saturday: 9:30am to 4pm
- Closed on Sundays, Mondays, austerity Saturdays*, and holidays.

*Closed for JKPL austerity on the following Saturdays: Sept. 2, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30, 2023.

How can you help JKPL?

The public library welcomes and encourages businesses to consider donating Educational Tax Credits. JKPL is able to receive cash contributions under the ETC program pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120.

For more information, call (670) 235-7322/7318. ***(PR)***

Stay Connected
Payment Notice
We want to keep you connected to everything that matters to you. To avoid any service interruptions to your residential account please make payment by Thursday, August 24, 2023.
For your convenience, enjoy more ways and locations to pay:
• Online at store.ite.net/onlinebilling
• IT&E Oleai store – Open Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 5 PM
• Kada Dia Payment Center - Open Monday through Friday from 11 AM to 3:30 PM
• Angel Market – Open daily from 7 AM to 10 PM
(Please bring your billing statement. Cash only.)
• Shell Stations - Open daily.
(Please bring your billing statement. Cash or card accepted.)
• Over the phone by calling 670-682-4ITE (4483).
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
IT&E

CWA
CNMI WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
CNMI WOMENS ASSOCIATION
CNMI WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
2
B I N G O
10
FUNDRAISER
4
Thank You
BINGO
BINGO
12
8
Major Sponsors
TSL Foundation
• Bridge Capital • Wushin Corporation
• Senate President Edith DLG Guerrero
• House Speaker Edmund Villagomez
• MATSON • Mr. Billy Grow
Other Sponsors
D&Q Distributor Company • Marpac
• SipNSmile Wine, Beer, and Spirits • Herman's Bakery
• Ms. Roxanne Diaz • Ms. Carmilynn T. Ogumoro
• Ms. Linda Cabrera • Ms. Shawnalei Ogumoro
• Ms. Les Ogumoro Uludong • Ms. Lei Ogumoro Uludong
• Ms. Esther Fleming • Ms. Lauri Ann Guardian
• Ms. Rita DLC Chong • Ms. Becky K. Tenorio
15
22
Special thanks to Peoni Mills, Marissa Aldan,
her crew, CWA volunteers, members,
and thank you to all who bought the tickets from the event.
YOUR SUPPORT IS TREMENDOUSLY APPRECIATED !!!

Officer pleads not guilty to firearm storage charges

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The police officer whose service firearm was allegedly used in the Kagman shooting that saw a minor being shot in the face has pleaded not guilty to the charges filed against him.

During his arraignment last Monday, Department of Public Safety officer Raymond L. Saralu pleaded not guilty to the six counts of storage of firearm charges filed against him after multiple guns were allegedly found in his residence and his service-issued firearm was allegedly involved in the Kagman shooting that left a 7-year-old severely injured.

Aside from the firearm storage charges, Saralu also pleaded not guilty to one count of obstructing justice in connection with the allegation that he tampered with the crime scene.

According to court documents, the evidence found at the scene may have been tampered with as the gun that was allegedly determined to have been used in the shooting was found in a laundry basket and covered with clothes while another gun was found on the floor near the 7-year-old who had been shot.

According to the complaint, DPS dispatch received a call from Saralu, who was off-duty at the time, at around 9:06pm last May 21, asking that an ambulance be sent to his residence.

When first responders arrived, they found a 7-year-old boy lying in a pool of blood. He was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center but was later transported to Guam Memorial Hospital for surgery.

Although he is recovering, the boy has reportedly lost vision in his left eye and has lost muscle control on one side of his face.

Court documents state that the boy allegedly told his mother while in the ambulance that his minor uncle took a gun from Saralu's work belt, which was on a chair in his bedroom. When the victim took the gun to give it back to Saralu, the gun went off on his face. The boy reiterated this statement in a follow up interview on June 14.

At Saralu's residence, officers stated that they found eight unsecured firearms, one near the boy, and Saralu's service firearm, which was in its holster inside a basket covered with clothes.

Police noted that several of the firearms found were in an unfinished closet that had no doors nor plywood shelving, with no trigger locks and were not inside a safe.

When police asked him, Saralu said he did not have a safe yet.

It was only recently determined that Saralu's service firearm was the one used in the accidental shooting after a ballistics test was ran on three of the eight firearms that were found in the home.

David, Borja nominated to CEDA board

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has nominated Tania Sophia P. David to serve on the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board of directors and re-nominated Frank Lee SN. Borja on the same board.

If confirmed by the Senate, David will serve the unexpired term of Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, which will expire on Sept. 25, 2025, while Borja will serve another four-year term, which will expire on Sept. 25, 2027.

David was appointed to represent Saipan and the Northern Islands, while Borja was re-nominated to represent Tinian.

David recently graduated from the Northern Marianas College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management.

Borja is a former intern at the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and holds a master's degree in public administration. He started serving the board of the then-Commonwealth Development Authority in 2017.

JORGENSEN

From page 1

He said the opportunity to be considered a prospective CPA appointee, however, is a privilege for any member of the CNMI community.

On Monday, Palacios wrote Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) to express his intent to withdraw his nomination of Jorgensen. He did not mention a reason for the withdrawal.

The governor said he will be submitting a new nomination to represent Rota on the CPA board.

Palacios nominated Jorgensen last June 1.

The Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee chaired by Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) held a confirmation hearing on Jorgensen's appointment last July 26. Except for Jorgensen, all appointees who appeared before the confirmation hearing were subsequently confirmed by the full Senate.

The lawyer said yesterday that, while he remains uncertain as to exactly what considerations persuaded Palacios to withdraw his nomination as a CPA board member for the Rota community, he respects that decision.

He said he will leave it up to Palacios and the Senate leadership the opportunity to provide the details.

Jorgensen said that since this matter was informally discussed about a week ago, the governor's decision was not surprising to him or to others.

He said he found it curious, though, that he received no advance courtesy call, and that the media learned about the decision before he later found an email telling him about it.

Quite frankly, he said, an unpaid multi-year tenure at CPA's board was and will remain a daunting prospect for any CPA board nominee, given the dire circumstances CPA imminently faces.

He said his immediate hope is that future CPA board nominees will be selected based on essential qualifications such as competence, experience, capability, fiduciary adherence, and transparency in past and future CPA dealings and activities.

"And the equally important necessity of recognizing, divulging, and taking appropriate and swift action as to actual, tacit, and prospective conflicts-of-interest which, in the past, appear to have been significantly overlooked or ignored within the CPA board," Jorgensen said.

He said in those and other respects, he made crystal clear his intention, if confirmed by the Senate, to shift the CPA board's status quo.

"Many expressed opposition and hostility to any status quo modification, preferring, instead, the 'business as usual' operational model," the lawyer said.

Jorgensen believes it will remain interesting in the coming months to witness whether necessary and meaningful changes in CPA's status quo will be implemented and actually enforced, or whether "business as usual" will yet again prevail.

He noted that appointments to CNMI board positions should not be based on or be treated akin to popularity contests, that necessities like professional competence should not take a backseat to personal, political, or familial self-interests, loyalties, or agendas.

Jorgensen extended his best wishes and hopes to all future CPA board appointees for imminent and transparent CPA changes, for the well-being of the CNMI community.

At the July 26 confirmation hearing, many people wrote letters of support while some appeared before the EAGI Committee to support the appointment of Jorgensen, but CPA director Pete P. Reyes strongly opposed, calling Jorgensen an opportunist and who is not a resident of Rota and has a questionable character.

Citing a petition with 90 signatures and five letters from Rota residents who strongly opposed Jorgensen's appointment, Sen. Dennis James C. Mendiola (R-Rota) requested the committee to thoroughly examine the concerns raised in the petition.

Last Aug. 10, Jorgensen downplayed Mendiola's (R-Rota) opposition to his appointment, describing it as "rehashed old news" that were reported and dispelled more than a month ago, a repetition of personal criticisms, the senator's own ignorance and disregard for facts, and "propensity for anti-white racism."

LOVER

From page 1

multiple videos circulated on social media showing a man lying flat on his back, with a woman by his side along Middle Road right across the New XO Market.

The video showed the man being transported by Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, via gurney, into a nearby ambulance while police blocked off the northbound and southbound access to the road.

It was later learned that the man who was hit just had an argument with his girlfriend, which ultimately led to the accident.

This happened around 15 hours after another man was fatally hit by a car also along the same stretch of the highway.

According to an official press release from the Department of Public Safety, DPS received a call at around 8:48pm last Monday evening reporting another auto-pedestrian incident on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, this time just across New XO Market in Chalan Lau Lau.

Upon arrival, a responding officer saw a male pedestrian in pain and a woman attending to him.

The medics transported the injured pedestrian to the Commonwealth Health Center for further medical treatment.

Fortunately, it was determined that the pedestrian survived the accident but sustained abrasions. He was allegedly under the influence of alcohol when he was hit by the car.

Following a preliminary investigation, police learned that an argument had occurred between the pedestrian and his girlfriend at the XO Market parking lot. The girlfriend left, and the pedestrian crossed Chalan Pale Arnold Road, colliding with a northbound vehicle.

The vehicle's driver was unharmed and waited for the police to arrive.

Police reported that the pedestrian is a 34-year-old-male and a resident of Dandan, while the driver of the vehicle is a 53-year-old-male from Chalan Kanoa.

Earlier that day, an auto-pedestrian crash along the northbound lane of Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, near Paradise Dental. The victim in that incident was immediately brought to CHC but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

DPS says the case remains under further investigation.

PSS

From page 1

three islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For this school year, due to Beach Road construction that reduced some lanes to just one, classes in Saipan high schools—Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, and Da'Ok Academy—start at 9am and end at 3:45pm from Tuesday through Friday. Mondays are still half days from 9am to 1pm.

When *Saipan Tribune* visited the MHS campus at 8am, it saw a Department of Public Safety police officer at the traffic light intersection directing traffic to assist with the traffic flow heading in and out of the Susupe campus.

Almost an hour before classes started, the campus was already packed with students as the hallways echoed with laughter, excitement, and ane air of nervousness for the new school year.

Eleventh-grade student Jerome Manzon said that returning to school felt amazing. "It's an amazing feeling coming back to see everyone else. It's almost like having an event every day to find your friends and hang out. I actually woke up really early today because I was that excited to go back to school. So yeah, I'm looking forward to many events this year."

About the traffic situation on Beach Road, he said "I try to wake up as early as possible so that I can get ready and head out of my house as early as possible so that I don't catch the traffic. I try to leave before 7:30am so that I get the fast-moving traffic flow."

When asked about the 9am class start time instead of the usual 8:30am, he said, "As a student, I love it. It gives me extra time to sleep because teenagers usually sleep late. So having that extra 30 minutes to get ready and wake up gives us enough time to get ourselves settled for the morning."

Another student, freshman Jim Sison, said that going to MHS for his first day of high school made him feel "a little overwhelmed, but overall, I'm just excited to be here–- new school and new opportunities, new clubs to join, new people to meet, and just overall have a great and fun school year."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

JUDGES

From page 1

Naraja told the governor.

A judge's term is six years.

In the November 2020 general election, then-75-year-old Govendo won his third six-year term as a presiding judge, making him the oldest judge to sit on the CNMI bench. He is 78 years old now.

Then-governor Juan N. Babauta appointed Govendo as an associate judge in 2003. Voters overwhelmingly voted for his retention in 2007, 2014, and 2020.

In the November 2022 general election, majority voted for Bogdan's retention on the bench as an associate judge.

Bogdan became a judge in November 2017 after then-governor Ralph DLG Torres appointed him to the bench.

Immediately prior to his nomination, Bogdan worked as legal counsel and senior policy adviser to both the Office of the Lt. Governor and Office of the Governor during Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Torres' administrations.

Boonie Flight Project to ship 38 homeless animals to US

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boonie Flight Project is teaming up with Saipan Humane Society and Guam Animals In Need to ship a total of 38 homeless animals to loving homes and partner rescues in the United States.

In honor of national Clear The Shelter month, Boonie Flight Project has once again teamed up with Saipan Humane Society and Guam Animals In Need to ship a total of 38 homeless animals to loving homes and partner rescues stateside—10 of these animals being from Saipan.

Boonie Flight Project, founded by Saipan Humane Society founder Lauren Cabrera and her Guam-based best friend, Kelsey Graupner, in early 2021, has been a beacon of hope for boonie dogs. This project aims to find loving homes off-island for these remarkable canines. Since its inception, the organization has successfully flown nearly 600 boonie dogs to loving homes and partner rescues stateside, including 51 dogs from Saipan and Tinian, previously partnering with the Saipan-based Boonie Babies Rescue to fly their dogs as well.

Boonie Flight Project has cultivated a growing community of supporters, many of whom return to adopt a second or even third boonie dog. According to Cabrera, the dogs' manageable size, distinctive appearance, loyalty, and intelligence make them irresistible companions. "These dogs possess remarkable mental and physical resilience—qualities that have evolved through their survival instincts. They're highly trainable, and the perfect addition to any family. They truly are the ultimate companions," Cabrera adds.

Behind the scenes, the Boonie Flight Project faces significant challenges in transporting dogs off the island, particularly from Saipan. The process involves not only selecting adoptable dogs, ensuring their health, and securing foster homes but also actively finding suitable adopters through social media. "It's remarkable that people are willing to adopt dogs they've never met in person, but we have worked hard to build that trust by picking exceptional family dogs for our program," said Graupner.

So, how does it all come together? Once a dog is chosen for the program, they're showcased on social media. Interested individuals submit adoption applications that are reviewed by Mary Stinson, BFP's Kansas-based adoptions coordinator. After confirming compatibility, an invoice is sent, and flight arrangements are made. Graupner and BFP Operations director Stephanie DeForge collaborate closely with the pet shipper to maximize available aircraft space.

"We've had to be incredibly resourceful in this aspect. I've literally had to create a layout of the entire plane to optimize the number of lives we can save," said DeForge.

Extensive paperwork is required for the flight, including veterinary health certificates and export documents, which are prepared and submitted to authorities in Guam and Hawaii by Kelsey and Stephanie. Kelsey then tirelessly arranges connecting flights with pet-friendly carriers like Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines, facilitating the journey from the charter's landing in Honolulu to the final destination, often via Seattle. Boonie Flight Project also coordinates teams of dedicated volunteers in Honolulu and Seattle to care for dogs during layovers, assist in creating travel crates, and manage airport transfers.

"It is tons of work," Cabrera said, "but what we do is so rewarding. With just four core volunteers—busy with families and jobs—the impact we've achieved is pretty amazing. I cannot tell you how happy I am to have moved some long-term residents out of the Saipan animal shelter and be sending them off island, along with clearing out adoptable animals at Guam's animal shelter."

For more information about the Boonie Flight Project, adoption opportunities, and how you can support their mission, visit www.boonieflightproject.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-097

Opening Date: Friday, August 11, 2023
Closing Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**IT Analyst**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Information Technology**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$40,084.00 to $54,113.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the IT Administrator or his/her designee. CUC is seeking an experienced IT Analyst to be responsible for the design and implementation of functional and cost-efficient information systems to meet and achieve the Corporation's needs.

Duties:

- Develops applications and workflows in MS365.
- Updates firmware for firewall, switches, routers, wireless controllers, access points, physical servers, workstations, etc.
- Updates and upgrades servers OS, workstations, IOS and other mobile devices.
- Updates and creates group policy objects.
- Maintains domain user accounts and accesses at the lest privileged.
- Updates and maintains DHCP server users' IP addresses, printers on Print servers, etc.
- Maintains, checks, and tests encrypted backup locally and in the cloud.
- Updates, adds, removes, and disables users from on-prem AD, AzureAD and MS 365.
- Maintains and administers computer networks and related computing environments including computer hardware, systems software, applications software, and all configurations.
- Resolves and documents system errors, network and performance issues.
- Maintains and updates IT Department tangible and intangible assets inventory.
- Maintains and updates Endpoint Security and endpoints.
- Maintains and improves company security posture.
- Monitors and updates network performance and status using third party monitoring software.
- Develops and updates IT department policies and procedures.
- Monitors end-of-life (EOL) on existing infrastructure, plans, and replaces on time.
- Troubleshoots network issues, routing problems, blocked websites, VPN connections, etc.
- Adds, moves, and troubleshoots VOIP phones and analog phones and devices.
- Provides physical and remote technical user support.
- Responds to after-hours and weekend calls.
- Performs other duties assigned by IT Administrator.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology or directly related field.

Experience: Four (4) years of related professional information technology experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient successfully perform the job's essential duties such as those listed above.

Experience working with different programming language such as Azure and MS365 or AWS or similar cloud environment. Deployment, configuration and maintenance of the following: Microsoft 365, exchange online, SharePoint, Teams, OneDrive PowerApps; vSphere VMware ESXI, IDRAC, vCenter/Hyper-V; Windows Server 2016 or higher and Active Directory, DNS, DHCP, IIS, RDS, File Server and Print Servers and Linux Server; Cisco L2/3 Switches, VLANs, OSPF and BGP & Routers; Sonicwall NSA/Cisco/Peplink Firewall or other enterprise firewalls, VPNs, SSL; Ubiquity Wireless Controller and access points, Meraki or similar; Kaspersky Endpoint Solutions and Security Center or similar Endpoint Solutions; Acronis Cyber Protect or similar cyber-backup and cloud solutions; TeamViewer, Zendesk or similar remote applications; BitLocker or similar endpoint encryption; SANs & NAS RAID configuration; Hardware hardening and Network Security; NVR and IP cameras; Basic knowledge on security standards and regulatory compliance, PCIDSS, NIST, ISO. Experience working with JSON, SQL, C#, JavaScript is preferred.

Knowledge of: Applicable hardware, software, system and technology principles, methods, and support techniques;Systems analysis and design methods, procedures, and techniques; Business methods, principles, and practices; Customer service principles; Database maintenance principles; Modern office technology; Budgeting principles; Basic mathematics.

Skills in: Providing analysis and design in support of information technology and business processes; Evaluating and maintaining existing systems and equipment; Developing and implementing technology solutions to meet business requirements; Analyzing system performance, troubleshooting issues, and maintaining system functionality; Monitoring, configuring, installing, testing, and maintaining assigned systems and equipment; Preparing and maintaining reports, system documentation, and procedures; Providing technical end-user support and training of software and systems; Prioritizing requests and managing time; Serving as a technical liaison with internal staff and external service providers; Recommending the acquisition of software and equipment; Providing customer service; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
  - o CCNA, VCP, MCSA, Network+ or similar certification preferred but not required.

- **Physical Demands:**
  - o Occasionally required to lift and/or move up to 20 pounds and frequently lift and/or move up to 10 pounds.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday to Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

FEMA to provide financial assistance to the CNMI

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency will be providing financial assistance to the CNMI, local governments, and private nonprofit organizations that may affect historic properties, floodplains, or wetlands.

A public notice FEMA issued Monday for publication states that the notice applies to the Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation Grant programs implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

"This public notice concerns activities that may affect historic properties, activities that are located in or affect wetland areas and the 100-year floodplain, and may also involve critical actions within the 500-year floodplain. Such activities may adversely affect the historic property, floodplain, or wetland, or may result in continuing vulnerability to flood damage," the FEMA notice states.

Overview of authorized assistance

President Joe Biden declared a major disaster for the CNMI on June 2, 2023, and amended it on July 3, and July 10, 2023, as a result of Typhoon Mawar, which began on May 22, 2023, to May 29, pursuant to his authority under the Robert Act.

Amendment No. 1 - This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the CNMI, closing the incident period on May 29.

Amendment No. 2 – The notice of a major disaster declaration for the CNMI is hereby amended to include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the event declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of June 2, 2023. The island of Rota for debris removal [Category A] and permanent work [Categories C-G] (already designated for emergency protective measures [Category B], including direct federal assistance under the Public Assistance program). The islands of Saipan and Tinian for emergency protective measures and permanent work (Categories B-G), including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is available CNMI-wide.

Individual Assistance is authorized by Section 408 of the Stafford Act. FEMA may provide IA program funding for disaster-related emergency housing. These actions may adversely affect a floodplain/wetland or may result in continuing vulnerability to floods. These actions may include repair, restoration, or construction of housing or private bridges or repair of structures as minimum protective measures. This will be the only public notice concerning these actions.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CAPACITY BUILDING NMC

Dr. Cheng Sheng Lee, right, executive director for the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, discusses his findings with NMC Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services – Aquaculture and Natural Resources program leader Michael Ogo at the NMC-CREES Aquaculture and Natural Resources Program Center. During his visit, Lee discussed the current forktail rabbitfish capacity building project with Ogo, and shared his feedback on the project's progress. Lee also made visits to CREES Aquaculture client farms

USCIS launches online form to request field office appointment

On Aug. 21, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services launched a new online form for individuals, attorneys, and accredited representatives to request an in-person appointment for certain customer service-related appointment requests, such as ADIT stamp or emergency advanced parole, at their local field office without having to call the USCIS Contact Center.

"This is an important step in our efforts to improve the experience of the people we serve and to reduce USCIS Contact Center wait times," said a USCIS news release.

With this new tool, individuals can visit my.uscis.gov/appointment to submit a request for a specific date, time, and type of appointment with their local field office. This online appointment request form is not a self-scheduling tool and does not guarantee an appointment for the preferred date or time requested. The Contact Center will review and validate each request before confirming the appointment date and time.

Individuals, attorneys, and accredited representatives will still have the option to call the USCIS Contact Center to request an appointment. However, USCIS strongly encourages users to use the new online appointment request form to improve their overall customer experience. Using the online appointment request form will save time, increase efficiency, and reduce call volume to the USCIS Contact Center.

Visit my.uscis.gov/appointment for more information on the online appointment request form.

"We will hold outreach activities to ensure individuals, legal representatives, and other interested parties are familiar with the online appointment request form," states the USCIS news release. ***(PR)***

Heavy rains possible today

The public is being warned that substantial rainfall is possible today, Wednesday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a monsoon trough has lifted northward into the Marianas. This has produced light winds that will allow island convection the next couple of days. This will keep soil saturated in select areas.

Monsoon rainfall that began last Saturday could become heavy by Wednesday night. Rainfall accumulations from Saturday to Wednesday could easily reach 4 to 6 inches, with local amounts of 8 to 10 inches possible. Use this time to check your nearest storm drain and perform any preparedness actions needed. Keep up to date with the National Weather Service or your favorite news media to listen for flood advisories, watches or warnings in case they are issued.

The public is being advised that localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Ensure nearby storm drains are not clogged, especially for low- lying or flood-prone areas. ***(PR)***

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

Has an opening for

Customer Service Cashier /Pump Attendant

- We are looking for energetic people who are friendly, smiling, dependable, and desires to be a team player to work as Customer Service Representatives.
- Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate effective: People skills. Communication skills. English and Math Skills.
- Reliable transportation is required.
- Must be punctual.
- Must be willing to learn new skills & follow instructions.
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule; including Sundays and Holidays.
- Sales or Customer Service background helpful
- A High School Diploma or GED required.
- On island references & police clearance required.

Application form is available in any of our five (5) Service Stations:

1) Shell Highway Express Gualo Rai (beside First Hawaiian Bank)
2) Shell Puerto Rico
3) Shell San Roque
4) Shell Susupe
5) Shell Dandan

Delta Management is an Equal Opportunity Employer
(No phone call please)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
 # 05-2023(b)

Opening date: August 14, 2023 **Closing date: September 01, 2023**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Airport Manager	UNGRADED
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) AOA Controller I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Rota Ports Manager	UNGRADED
	(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance I	PL 5/1 to 5/12($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or ***CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 01, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

ANNUAL FRUIT BAT (FANIHI) COUNT

U.S. AIR FORCE/STAFF SGT. PEDRO TENORIO

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command biologists and volunteers pose for a picture in Yigo, Guam, Aug. 18, 2023. Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, is home to one of the last bat colonies on Guam. Every year airmen, their families and other local organizations volunteer to help NAVFAC biologists go on base and count the bat population in the early morning. Fruit bats in Guam are a threatened species and the count is to help the biologists know if the population is growing or shrinking. Volunteers are separated into teams on various locations across Andersen AFB. The volunteers then record how many and what flight direction. If another station sees a bat that could be considered on another bat's flight path, it is counted as the same bat.

USDOL, NMTech, OSHA join forces to promote safer workplaces

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA Onsite Consultation Division, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute have established a two-year alliance to provide the institute's students and the public with information, guidance and training resources to help prevent and reduce worker exposure to safety and health hazards in industries throughout the Commonwealth.

OSHA acting area director Pologa Setu from Honolulu, Hawaii, OSHA Onsite Consultation program manager Timothy Asaivao, and NMTECH chief executive officer Jodina Attao met last Aug. 20, 2023, to formalize the OSHA Safety and Health Alliance.

The alliance provides a framework for information sharing between OSHA and NMTech on workplace safety and health initiatives, campaigns and emphasis programs. The alliance will facilitate opportunities to participate in forums, roundtable discussions, and stakeholder meetings on safety and health priorities.

In the next two years, participants will work together to promote understanding of workers' rights, including the OSHA complaint process, employer responsibilities, and training needs and trends. The partnership will also support OSHA education programs in a variety of areas, including construction, general industry, maritime, agriculture, and disaster mitigation and recovery.

NMTech fosters the professional growth and development of individuals interested in the technical and trades fields. The institute offers courses in construction, automotive, culinary and hospitality industries. In continued partnerships, NMTech will expand offering courses for the maritime, cosmetology, solar, and aviation industries. The institute will also be offering OSHA's 10-hour and 30-hour general industry training and its Hard Hat Heroes program.

The OSHA Alliance Program enables organizations to enter voluntarily into a cooperative relationship to raise awareness of OSHA's initiatives, outreach, communications, training and education.

The CNMI-OSHA Onsite Consultation Division offers no-cost and confidential occupational safety and health services to small and medium-sized businesses, with priority given to high hazard worksites.

"Through this alliance, OSHA and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute will jointly provide resources and promote the delivery of safety and health training for the benefit of all workers and employers throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and beyond," said Setu. ***(PR)***

Guam college students can apply for post-graduate financial assistance in healthcare

Guam residents currently pursuing a professional medical degree, or accepted into a professional medical degree program within one of the 60 Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education cooperating programs, now can apply for funding support at guamcc.edu/PSEP.

"Thanks to the Biråda Act, we are now able to support Guam's medical students with the high cost of medical school, and also assure that they can come back on-island to fill critical gaps in our healthcare services," said Guam Community College president Dr. Mary Okada. "GCC's role is to secure funding and facilitate the WICHE application process for these students. As always, GCC rises to meet the needs in our community, and we will put that same focus into this process."

WICHE is a regional compact of 15 western states and the CNMI, Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau. WICHE is charged with helping residents of participating states and territories address higher education and workforce issues distinct to the region.

"Extending the benefits of PSEP to Guam's medical students will prove to be a crucial part of addressing workforce issues," said WICHE president Demarée Michelau. "We've seen how PSEP and our other Student Access Programs are able to help students and their families pursue their educational and career goals, and this brings the residents of Guam one step closer to those opportunities."

Guam is participating in WICHE's Professional Student Exchange Program to assist students pursuing a career in designated health fields to enroll in participating programs within the WICHE region, and to receive substantial tuition support from Guam. According to WICHE's website, participating students can save $34,100 to $133,600 over the course of their health degree study. Guam WICHE participants must commit to returning to Guam to practice in their chosen field in health care.

Interested Guam applicants can apply for PSEP funding in five healthcare fields: Allopathic Medicine (MD), Occupational Therapy (MOT, OTD), Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Pharmacy (PharmD) and Physical Therapy (DPT).

Guam lawyer Rodney Jacob serves as Guam's WICHE commissioner. Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes and Sen. Amanda Shelton are members of the WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee. "This is big. [PSEP] tackles the obstacles of the high cost of tuition for professional healthcare degrees and incentivizes our kids to come back home to Guam and serve our communities' healthcare needs," said Jacob. "WICHE's PSEP will allow Guam to invest in the very people who will run our healthcare systems in the future."

Public Law P.L. 36-88, the Biråda Act, designates GCC as the administrative officer for the Guam WICHE PSEP program. ***(PR)***

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)
Shell Gasoline Service Stations
Has an opening for an Auditor/Accounting Staff

For established small business
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible in monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Will assist in handling Accounts Receivable, should the in-charge is on vacation
- Must have confidence working with numbers
- Able to adhere to and meet reporting deadlines
- Must demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.
- Must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in English.
- Can work under minimum supervision.
- Can work on a fast paced environment.
- Experience with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet) and Word programs.
- Organized, honest, trustworthy and a team player.
- Great attitude.
- We will train the right person
- On island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 167

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Thanks, Kansas, for standing on the right side of press freedom history—finally

The Marion County Record raid warrant has been withdrawn. Too little, too late.

Investigators are returning the items seized at the newspaper's office and its owners' home. The prosecutor on the case cites "insufficient evidence." Thanks, but media law experts have been saying the same thing since last Friday.

What kept you?

In a statement Wednesday, Marion County Attorney Joel Ensey wrote that he had concluded that "insufficient evidence exists to establish a legally sufficient nexus between this alleged crime and the places searched and items seized."

This means the Record will get back the items it needs to continue its heroic work of covering a town and protecting its residents. They will get back the computers, cellphones and other electronic devices and documents taken, including, we assume, the router that connected the late Mrs. Joan Meyer's Alexa speaker.

Mrs. Meyer, 98, died the day after the raid, after suffering a sleepless night and a lot of stress. Much has been written about the paper's co-owner, a newswoman since 1953, and the role she played in the operations of the paper. Her last statement on the matter described the "Hitler tactics" of the police in raiding the paper and her home.

Which is why we say too little, too late—with the law acting now, only after the nation's scrutiny has fallen on Kansas, and after something could have been done to stop this police action in the first place.

■ Too little, too late on the part of prosecutor Ensey, who was remiss in taking five days to realize what should have been done immediately.

■ Too little, too late on the part of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, which earlier appeared to support the raid.

■ Too little, too late on the part of Gov. Laura Kelly, who said basically nothing about the attack on press freedoms after reporters asked her. (Governor, if you do come forward now, after news of the warrant being revoked reaches your office, it really will be TL,TL. But we welcome your statement.)

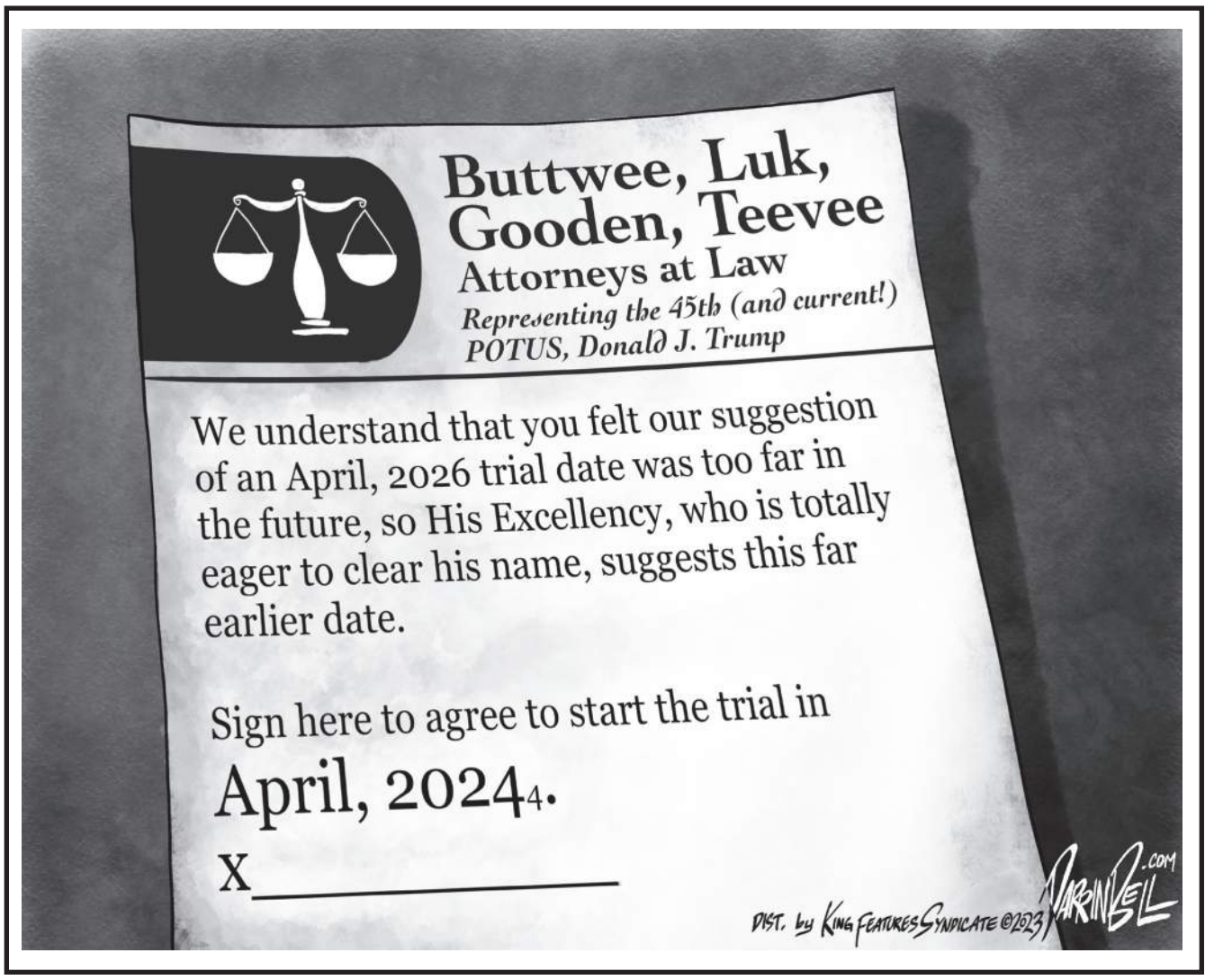
■ Too little, too late on the part of Magistrate Judge Laura Viar, who approved the raid despite having a complicated background that might have clouded her decision.

And certainly too little, too late on the part of Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody, who appeared to move with jackboot accuracy to the aforementioned "Hitler tactics" cited by the late Mrs. Meyers.

We welcome a return to publishing by the Marion Country Record, and hope this incident serves as a wake-up call to law enforcement everywhere.

We call for Kansas (and Missouri) to work swiftly and pass legislation that clearly protects the press, as well as send a message to law enforcement and state officials down to the most local of levels that such tactics will not be tolerated.

©2023 The Kansas City Star


Buttwee, Luk, Gooden, Teevee
Attorneys at Law
Representing the 45th (and current!) POTUS, Donald J. Trump
We understand that you felt our suggestion of an April, 2026 trial date was too far in the future, so His Excellency, who is totally eager to clear his name, suggests this far earlier date.
Sign here to agree to start the trial in
April, 2024.
X_____
DIST. by KING FEATURES SYNDICATE ©2023
MARKBELL.COM

Burisma = Benghazi 2.0

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

You don't need to be a famous codebreaker to crack the codename – "My Guy" – that kept popping up in Hunter Biden's emails. He'd just seen the first sign that his big ka-ching deal with Burisma, the Ukrainian energy company, would pay off, big-time.

"The announcement of my guy's upcoming travels should be characterized as part of our advice and thinking," Hunter Biden emailed Devon Archer, his U.S. business partner and fellow new Burisma board member, on April 12, 2014. "But what he will say and do is out of our hands. In other words it could be a really good thing or it could end up creating too great an expectation….

"The contract should begin now – not after the upcoming visit of my guy. That should include a retainer in the range of 25k p/m (Translation: $25,000 per month)…This could be the break we have been waiting for if they really are smart enough to understand our long term value."

I'm guessing you've already cracked the code: Hunter's "My Guy" was America's vice president and his dad. It reads like a boast about control and clout at a time when Joe Biden would soon come to Kiev to talk with Ukraine's new president.

President Barack Obama had assigned him to somehow guide corruption-ridden Ukraine toward corruption-controlled prosperity. And Hunter wrote a 22-point action memo to his colleague Archer on how they could make themselves appear indispensable to Burisma's oilmen and big money folks elsewhere. Especially China: "We had assurances that the PRC money would come first and we would build on that. …If they want us in Beijing once a month and pitching this outside PRC we should be getting paid in advance."

At the recent House Oversight Committee hearing, the Republican majority worked hard to magnify Hunter Biden's Burisma boondoggle – and make it appear Hunter's dad benefited improperly. Maybe even impeachably. Never mind that they've found no evidence of it. It's all about whataboutism – payback for the prosecutions of Donald Trump.

House Republicans pressed Archer about what he understood Hunter Biden meant when he repeatedly referred to "my guy" in his email urging that they link his dad's official Ukraine visit to "our advice and thinking."

"He's saying that… I can't guide my father in what he's going to do on this trip, but let's get credit for it…. He was getting paid a lot of money and … he wanted to show value."

No doubt you've also figured out why Burisma's big-oil execs decided Hunter, who had no background in Ukraine or big oil, was suddenly a perfect fit for their boardroom. Hunter was leveraging appearances of access into assumptions of clout with his dad, the veep. Ka-ching.

The hearing showcased a number of times when Joe Biden allowed himself to become a showpiece in Hunter's business dinners and meetings. He allegedly never talked business; just pleasantries. But Hunter gave global execs a night of access they could brag about forever.

Yet we also need to put all that into its very sad context. All this was happening just as the Biden family's best of times was suddenly shattered into its worst of times, yet again.

In 2013, Beau Biden – Hunter's life anchor, his dad's idol – was diagnosed with the deadly brain tumor that would take his life in just two years. Beau and Hunter had been Joe's reason for living ever since they were badly injured in the car accident that killed their mother and sister when their dad was senator-elect. Beau became a brilliant success. Hunter spiraled through an adulthood of alcoholism and addiction. Joe, ever watchful, called him daily.

When Joe learned about Hunter's Burisma boondoggle, I'm sure he feared saying anything (like "You can't do that!") that might cause Hunter to plunge into new peril. Or worse. He just vowed not to discuss his biz with Hunter.

Now Donald Trump's House Republicans are recycling that decade-old happening as today's breaking news. Ever threatening impeachment retribution, they repeatedly claim Joe Biden tried to protect Hunter's Burisma pals from being caught in a Ukraine corruption crackdown. It's their latest political attack formula: Burisma = Benghazi 2.0.

But the Republicans' problem is that, in 2018, Joe Biden told the Council on Foreign Relations a boastful tale that, if verifiable, proves the opposite. Biden said that in his meeting with President Petro Poroshenko, he demanded Ukraine prove its corruption-fighting commitment by firing the state prosecutor (who failed to fight corruption) before he would approve a new $1 billion loan guarantee.

"I looked at them and said: I'm leaving in six hours," Joe Biden said. "If the prosecutor is not fired, you're not getting the money. Well, son of a bitch. He got fired."

It's time for House Republicans to call off their game of impeachment tag – and lead a bipartisan quest to revitalize our democracy.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Witness to the devastation in Joshua Tree National Park

By STEVE LOPEZ
Los Angeles Times

Rain in California had become like an old friend who seldom dropped in, and, then, all of a sudden showed up last fall and wouldn't leave. Atmospheric rivers lined up off the coast and pounded the state like sets of massive waves.

This had me wondering about the forlorn trees and plants I'd seen two years ago in Joshua Tree National Park, dying of thirst.

Might the rain have given them a shot at survival?

For the answer, I reached out to Jim Cornett, an ecologist who has studied and written about desert plants and wildlife for decades. Cornett lives in Palm Springs, against the base of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains, where he got more than 8 inches of rain in the season that began last October.

That's a few inches above normal, and spring delivered a resurgence of plant and wildlife to Cornett's neighborhood. He hoped the same might have happened in the park, but when he traveled to the southeastern entrance to Joshua Tree National Park the first week of April, all he found was disappointment.

"No wildflowers," he said. "The ocotillos weren't in leaf, and one more had died. There was another drought year here."

I met up with Cornett in the park toward the end of May, several weeks before a devastating wildfire torched an untold number of Joshua trees in Mojave National Preserve, a couple of hours to the north. As we surveyed the dusty expanse of struggling plants, I asked what happened to all those storms that rolled through California.

"By the time they got over the mountains, they had nothing left for the desert," Cornett said.

So the outlook is no better than it was in 2021, when I first toured the park and Cornett issued a blunt assessment of the catastrophic transformation of the desert.

Here's the headline that ran with that column:

"Imagine no Joshua trees in Joshua Tree National Park"

That won't happen in my lifetime, but it's the direction we're headed in, as evidenced by research from Cornett and other authorities. The national park service warns of dramatic change due "in large part to human-caused climate change."

Drought and deluge are both byproducts of climate change, but there's little of the latter in the desert. The park service says the annual precipitation in Joshua Tree dropped 39% between 1895 and 2016, and average temperatures rose 3 degrees.

At lower elevations, "fewer seedlings are sprouting, growing and surviving," and with continued greenhouse gas emissions, by 2099, the park website warns, 80% to 90% of Joshua tree habitat could be lost.

Californians have disagreed for years over whether to list the iconic, gnarly fisted Joshua trees as threatened under the state Endangered Species Act, with some arguing that the trees are unthreatened in cooler and wetter regions. The newly enacted Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act, meanwhile, aims to balance the interests of conservationists and developers of renewable energy and housing projects.

But to Cornett, the bigger issue is the unchecked global warming threat, and he has been a witness to the devastation, having tagged and monitored Joshua trees in the park since 1988, and ocotillo plants since 2007. He repeatedly revisits his study sites, and, like a doctor taking vital statistics, records signs of both life and death, entering data into a field computer.

In that time, he has seen no positive trends. Even farther north, at Lee Flat in Death Valley—where Joshua trees were in far greater health with cooler temperatures and more moisture—Cornett has seen no new growth. As for the youngest trees, he said, "I don't think they're going to make it through the summer."

Unfortunately, it's not just Joshua trees and ocotillo that are suffering. They're part of an entire ecosystem—dozens of bird species nest in Joshua trees —that's in peril, and Cornett studies the big picture, as well.

No rain means no wildflowers, which means no dropped seeds, which means fewer rodents, snakes and birds.

The Joshua tree is a keystone species whose demise threatens a host of animals that rely on it for food, moisture and shelter.

When ocotillo are too gravely ill to flower, there's no nectar for hummingbirds migrating north from Mexico.

"Everywhere you look, you can see a dead ocotillo," Cornett said as we surveyed our surroundings south of the park's Cottonwood Visitor Center.

A few plants had half-hearted blossoms or specks of green, but Cornett pointed out the many bare, damaged limbs. That, he said, was the work of antelope squirrels and desert wood rats that had braved the sharp needles grown by ocotillo for self-protection.

"You have to be pretty desperate to tackle this," Cornett said, examining a spiny limb. "But look, this is where a rodent has chewed through the bark to get at the moist cambium layer in each stem and get a little moisture."

The same was true of the damage done, about 20 miles away, at one of Cornett's Joshua tree study sites. When he began visiting the Queen Valley area in 1988, Cornet said, he tagged 68 trees for monitoring. By 2007, about 15 had died of drought-related causes; then a fire sparked by lightning killed dozens more.

Today, only a handful of struggling Joshua trees remain upright.

"No new Joshua trees have come up. Not a single one," Cornett said of his 35-year study. "The fire speeded up what climate change was already doing."

Cornett's latest book, scheduled for publication later this year, is titled "The California Deserts: Then and Now." It's a before-and-after photo essay compilation of the disturbing transformation, with more death on the horizon.

"We could be doing something about it, but you know, we're supposed to be [cutting] carbon dioxide … and emissions go up every year," said Cornett, who blames overpopulation and overuse of resources.

The park website insists there's still hope if we accelerate conversion to wind and solar power, switch to energy-efficient appliances and electric vehicles, reduce consumption and eat less meat. "Will you help be part of the change?" the website asks.

Every little bit helps, Cornett said. But maybe, he joked, the only answer is to figure out a way to escape to a planet "someplace out there in the heavens"—a place that hasn't yet been spoiled.

"Someday," he said, "there'll be tours to go see Earth, and see what people did to it."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pivoting and the CNMI's economic trajectory

We are suffering: the government, our economy and the people are suffering. It seems the solutions so far have been the same-old generic steps of cost cutting, getting rid of employees, borrowing from the Marianas Public Land Trust, raising taxes, and courting foreign travel agencies. But we are not doing any real work within the CNMI.

I have been writing for the past two years about Ralph's mess and the need to cut ties with China and recovering our Japanese tourism market, along with finding new money and new attractions. There is also the fact our leaders are speechless to the fact that IPI owes the CNMI over $77 million that can solve a lot of economic woes, but nothing is being done to lay claim to that money. Then there is the growing labor challenge I tried to help them resolve but we are applying "zombie economics" too. The CNMI is crying foul about our labor but there is no systemic operation nor real-time data to prove our claims. It takes a real economist to deal with the plethora of variables facing our economy, which makes me wonder who is providing the governor economic advice. Having smart people is one thing but just because a person is smart you don't let them operate on you. The same is true about our economy, which is why our economy has been on a treacherous course ever since. Heck, we haven't addressed the old economic ventures like the Mariana Resort that can be the source of millions and can be the epic center for bringing back the Japanese tourist market. There is so much that is being overlooked it is clear to me the CNMI needs a real economist, as the last real economist helping the government was decades ago, which is why we continue to experience "zombie economics."

Basic economics dictates that the CNMI first collect the money owed the government before raising taxes and borrowing money, which is why I'm concerned that the governor is not getting the best economic advice. IPI owes the CNMI enough to almost put us in the black and they are selling everything worth selling, so nothing is going to be left for the people by the time our leaders get around to trying to claim our money. If our leaders can't address and clean up the old revenue streams, it gives considerable pause to think they will not be able to fully reclaim our Japanese tourists market and create new revenue streams. I'm glad to see the governor has pivoted to dropping China for the Japanese and South Korean markets but I've been saying this for over two years when it was first obvious to me the casino was dead. I've always been ahead of our leaders when it comes to our economy but they never listened, which is why I'm through trying to tell them what to do.

I remember that my senior thesis in Economics in 1972 was a study on "retail stores," in which I predicted the rise of the "superstores" that we see today nearly 20 years in advance. I warned our leaders five years in advance that the garment industry was leaving and they didn't listen. I'm concerned that we are not hearing an economic plan nor a picture of the direction the CNMI is headed economically; we're just putting out economic fires. Our leaders must learn to "listen, chew gum and walk at the same time," as they might say in Washington, D.C.

It seems to me our leaders in the CNMI are stuck on merely cutting cost, borrowing and hoping our tourism market will rebound with the Japanese coming back. The CNMI is not the master of its fate with so much reliance on other countries and with no plan to strengthen and expand our economic base. Our leaders don't seem to know how to turn the page on our tourism industry and labor challenge. They don't know how to make sure the CNMI is a prime destination and I'm not telling for free anymore—for my critics, the answer is not promoting cannabis tourism. In fact, we don't even have a cannabis tourism industry, just stores that sell marijuana. But I must ask, where is the work on the Mariana Resort worth millions in new money at stake? Where is the work to create the hemp industry that's on the shelf with the potential for millions in revenues and high paying job? Why hasn't MPLT ever initiated programs and grants to help the Northern Marianas descent? I can go on with other things that would bring in new money to help people, instead of this cutting-cost, borrowing from MPLT, and firing employees.

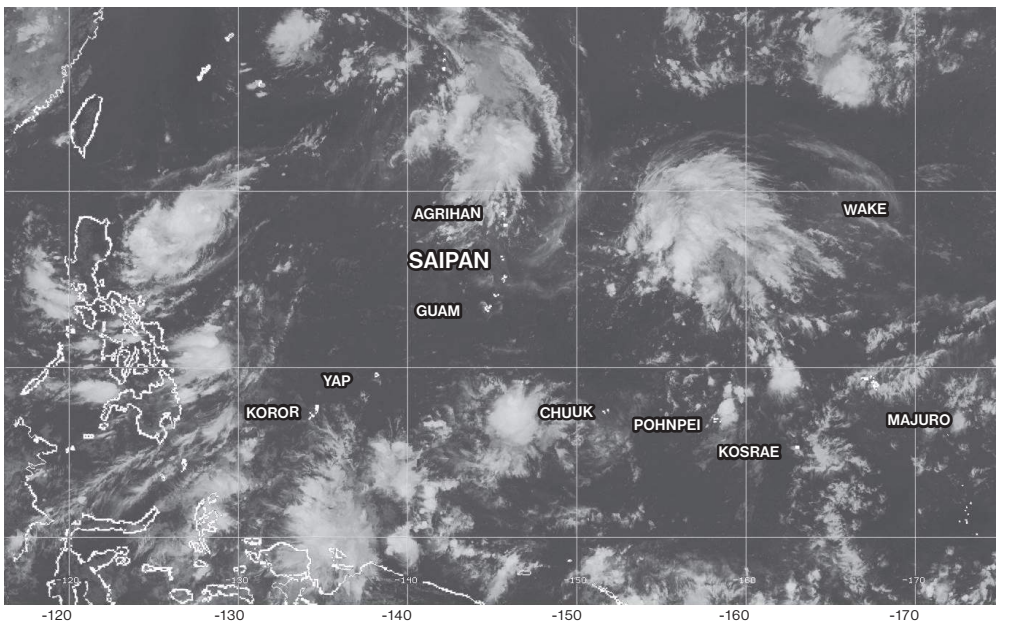
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:15 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The Ipan buoy reveals a 2 foot east swell, with a 2 foot south swell turning southwest so that the Ipan buoy can barely detect it now. Soon it won`t be able to detect it, and we will be relying on model data once again for westerly swells, since Ipan is our only working buoy at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:14 AM	10:54 PM	-
Thursday	12:09 PM	11:40 PM	-
Friday	1:08 PM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:32 AM	2:10 PM
Sunday	-	1:30 AM	3:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	57° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 66°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	89° / 78°
London	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	61° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	80° / 65°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	82° / 73°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Busan	Cloudy	82° / 75°
Rome	Thunderstorms	88° / 72°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	72° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 68°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	84° / 73°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	82° / 67°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
6:10 AM	Low Tide	0.53
12:23 PM	High Tide	1.61
5:56 PM	Low Tide	1.08
11:42 PM	High Tide	1.84

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

BMW i7 makes its mark in Guam

ATKINS KROLL

A golfer checks out the BMW i7, Guam's first all-electric luxury sedan, during the 3rd Annual BMW Golf Cup held last May 21 at the Onward Mangilao Golf Club.

During the recent 3rd Annual BMW Golf Cup at the Onward Mangilao Golf Club, Atkins Kroll Inc. exclusively unveiled the first-ever BMW i7, the island's first all-electric luxury sedan to guests.

"On the heels of unveiling the BMW iX, the first-ever luxury all-electric Sport Activity Vehicle on Guam, Atkins Kroll is proud to present the all-electric BMW i7 luxury sedan for the first time to our customers on Guam," said AK president Yap. "The i7 is the flagship of BMW's electric vehicle lineup, which is defining a new standard for EV technology and the luxury vehicles that are environmentally responsible."

The BMW i7 has a combined output of 536 hp and can go from 0-60 mph in 4.5 seconds. The fifth-generation BMW eDrive technology's efficiency paired with the latest battery cell technology offers an estimated range of up to 300 miles. Its visionary design and next-level style give the i7 an undeniable allure from the inside out. The expressive aesthetic and innovative technology ensures complete comfort and unparalleled driving pleasure.

The BMW i7 is now available in Guam, and AK invites its customers to visit the AK BMW Showroom on Marine Corps Drive in Tamuning to get a firsthand look at the island's most technologically advanced luxury vehicles. Visit bmw-guam.com or call AK BMW at (671) 649-6410 for more information about the BMW i7 or to make a purchase.

Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, Avis, Budget and Payless Rental Brands, and AC Delco brands.

In December 2021 Atkins Kroll acquired Morrico Equipment, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships representing Freightliner, Mercedes Benz, Hyundai Construction Equipment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer Fire Trucks and Thomas Built School Buses. Morrico Equipment operates new and used heavy equipment sales, rental, parts, diesel fuel delivery, Trashco Guam, and specialized diesel repair service to Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. ***(PR)***

Trudeau slams Facebook for blocking Canada wildfire news

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday accused Facebook of putting profits over people's safety during the emergencies created by Canada's record wildfire season.

Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, announced earlier this summer it would keep its promise to block news content from Canada on its platforms because of a new law that requires tech giants to pay publishers for linking to or otherwise repurposing their content online.

Fires raging in Canada have pushed tens of thousands of people from their homes and threatened cities such as Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories. About 30,000 people were under evacuation orders in British Columbia.

"Right now, in an emergency situation where up to date local information is more important than ever, Facebook is putting corporate profits ahead of people's safety," Trudeau said at a news conference in Cornwall on Prince Edward Island.

"It is so inconceivable that a company like Facebook is choosing to put corporate profits ahead of insuring that local news organizations can get up to date information to Canadians," the prime minister said.

Government ministers called on Meta on Friday to lift its Canada news ban, which applies to local outlets as well as national media such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The company, which is headquartered in Northern California, stood by its decision and said in a statement about the wildfires that people in Canada can continue to use Instagram and Facebook "to connect with their communities and access reputable information, including content from official government agencies, emergency services and non-governmental organizations."

The country's residents and visitors are not able to view or share news on the Meta-owned social networks, including news articles, videos and audio posted by outlets inside or outside of Canada.

Meta has not been alone in its action. Google's owner, Alphabet, also said it planned to remove Canadian news links in response to the new law, although it hasn't followed through yet. The Online News Act, passed in late June after lengthy debate, is set to take effect later this year.

"This is Facebook's choice," Trudeau said. "In a democracy, quality local journalism matters, and it matters now more than ever before when people are worried about their homes, worried about their communities, worried about the worst summer for extreme events that we've had in a very long time."

British Columbia Premier David Eby said it is unacceptable that Meta hasn't reversed its decision to block Canadian news from being shared online.

Japan to start releasing Fukushima plant's treated radioactive water

TOKYO (AP)—Japan will start releasing treated and diluted radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean as early as Thursday—a controversial but essential early step in the decades of work to shut down the facility 12 years after its meltdown disaster.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida gave the final go-ahead Tuesday at a meeting of Cabinet ministers involved in the plan and instructed the operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, to be ready to start the coastal release Thursday if weather and sea conditions permit.

Kishida said at the meeting that the release of the water is essential for the progress of the plant decommissioning and Fukushima prefecture's recovery from the March 11, 2011, disaster.

He said the government has done everything for now to ensure the safety, combat the reputational damage for the fisheries and to provide transparent and scientific explanation to gain understanding in and outside the country. He pledged that the government will continue the effort until the end of the release and decommissioning, which will take decades.

A massive earthquake and tsunami destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi plant's cooling systems, causing three of its reactors to melt and contaminating their cooling water. The water is collected, filtered and stored in about 1,000 tanks, which fill much of the plant's grounds and will reach their capacity in early 2024.

The release of the treated wastewater has faced strong opposition from Japanese fishing organizations, which worry about further damage to the reputation of their seafood as they struggle to recover from the nuclear disaster. Groups in South Korea and China have also raised concerns, turning it into a political and diplomatic issue.

The government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, say the water must be removed to make room for the plant's decommissioning and to prevent accidental leaks from the tanks.

Junichi Matsumoto, TEPCO executive in charge of the water release, said in an interview with the Associated Press last month that the water release marks "a milestone," but is still only an initial step in a daunting decommissioning process that is expected to take decades.

The easing of opposition from the fishing industry was key to the release because the government promised in 2015 not to start without "understanding" from fishing groups, after past accidental and unapproved discharges.

Masanobu Sakamoto, head of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, who met with Kishida on Monday, reiterated his organization's opposition to the release, but acknowledged that members of the fishing community have gained some confidence about the safety of the move. They still fear damage to their industry, he said, and welcomed the government pledge for support.

The government has offered funding totaling 80 billion yen ($550 million) for sales promotion and other steps, and for sustainable fishing operations.

The government and TEPCO say the water will be treated and then diluted with massive seawater to levels way safer than international standards, its environmental and health impact negligibly small.

The International Atomic Energy Agency in a final report in July concluded that the release, if conducted as designed, will cause negligible impact on the environment and human health.

Scientists generally support the IAEA view, but some say long-term impact of the low-dose radioactivity that remains in the water needs attention.

Kishida's government has stepped up outreach efforts to explain the plan to neighboring countries, especially South Korea, to keep the issue from interfering with their relationship.

Kishida said the effort has made progress and the international society is largely responding calmly to the plan. Still, Hong Kong said it would suspend exports from Fukushima and nine other prefectures if Japan went ahead with the plan, while China has stepped up radiation testing on Japanese fisheries products, delaying customs clearance.

Nation

TO RECOVER FROM WILDFIRE

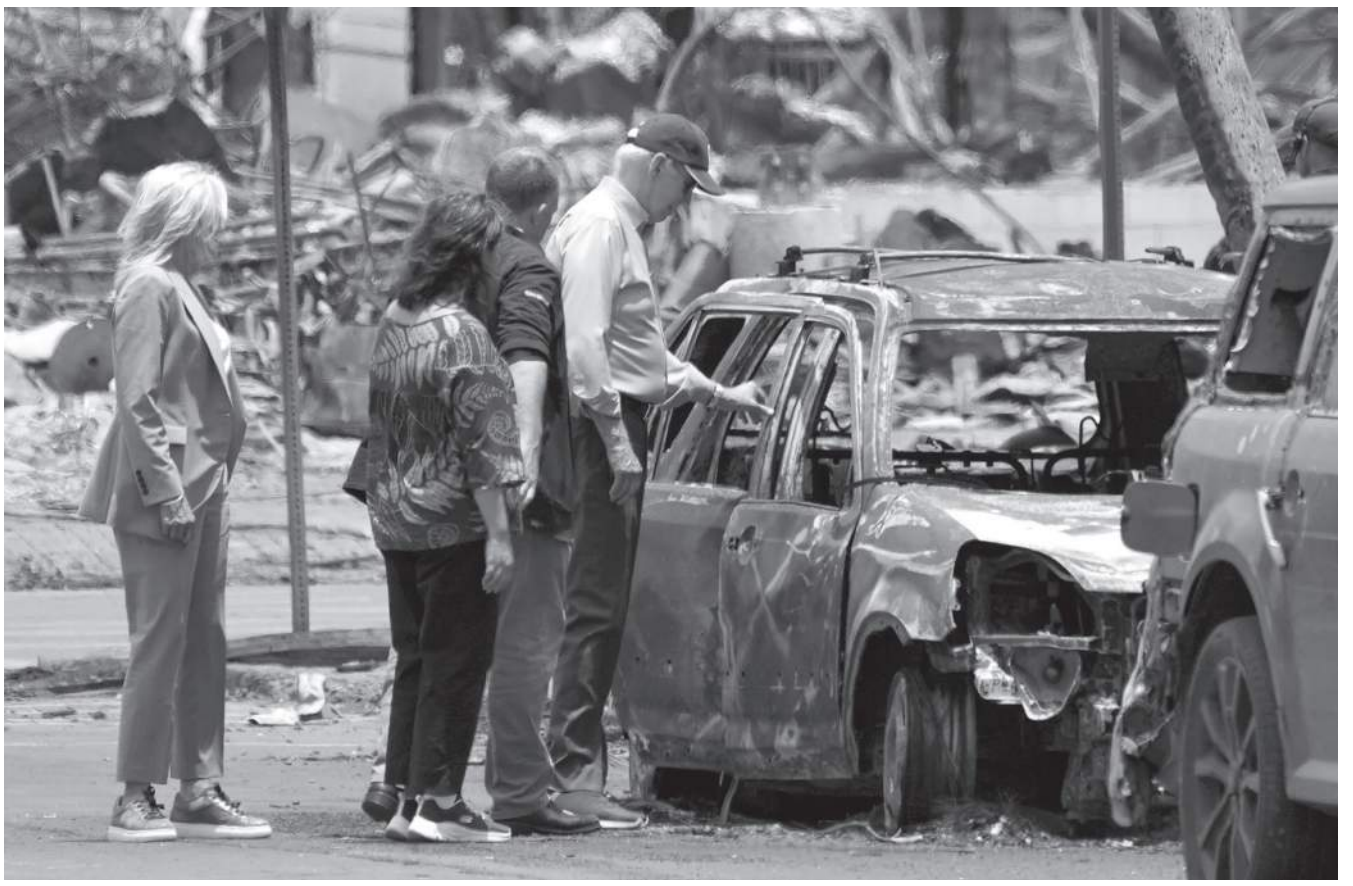
Biden says gov't will help Maui 'for as long as it takes'

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP)—President Joe Biden on Monday told survivors of Hawaii's wildfires that the nation "grieves with you" and promised that the federal government will help "for as long as it takes" Maui to recover from damage caused by the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century.

Biden arrived in Maui 13 days after fire ravaged the western part of the island, killing at least 115 people. Standing near a severely burned 150-year-old banyan tree, the president acknowledged the "overwhelming" devastation but said that Maui would persevere through the tragedy.

"Today it's burned but it's still standing," Biden said of the tree. "The tree survived for a reason. I believe it's a very powerful symbol of what we can and will do to get through this crisis."

Biden and first lady Jill Biden got a close-up look at the devastation, seeing block after block of hollowed out homes and other structures, charred cars, singed trees and piles of debris as his motorcade wound through Lahaina. They spent most of their time in the historic town of 13,000 people that was virtually destroyed by the flames.



AP

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden walk with Hawaii Gov. Josh Green and his wife Jaime Green as they visit areas devastated by the Maui wildfires, Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii

The Bidens lingered briefly on the tarmac after arriving at Kahului Airport to console Hawaii Gov. Josh Green, his wife Jaime Green and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation who greeted them. The president and first lady embraced each of their greeters before they boarded the Marine One helicopter for an aerial tour of the damage.

The Bidens also met with first responders and members of the community, and were briefed by state and local officials about the ongoing response. They also participated in a blessing of his visit by island elders. They had interrupted a weeklong vacation in the Lake Tahoe area to visit Lahaina.

Earlier Monday, the White House announced that Biden has named Bob Fenton, a regional leader at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to be the chief federal response coordinator for the Maui wildfires, overseeing the long-term recovery. It will take years to rebuild Lahaina, where just about every building was obliterated.

"We're going to rebuild the way the people of Maui want to rebuild," said Biden, adding that his administration would focus on respecting sacred lands, cultures and traditions.

Dozens gathered on the streets of Lahaina to watch Biden's motorcade wind its way through the community. Some greeted the president enthusiastically, but others appeared to be waving their middle fingers at the motorcade. Other island residents held up signs urging Biden "to listen to the people of Lahaina" and to send more aid.

During a community event at Lahaina's civic center, Biden praised the "remarkable resilience" he said he saw during his few hours in the community.

The president also spoke, as he often does when addressing communities touched by tragedy, of understanding the personal weight of devastating loss and the slow and painful process of recovering. Biden's first wife, Neilia, and their 1-year-old daughter, Naomi, died in a car accident in 1972. He lost an adult son, Beau, to brain cancer in 2015.

"When things look the most bleak, that's when we need faith," said Biden, who spent 70 minutes after his remarks speaking with community members.

Trump says he will surrender Thursday on Georgia charges

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and JILL COLVIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former President Donald Trump says he will surrender to authorities in Georgia on Thursday to face charges in the case accusing him of illegally scheming to overturn his 2020 election loss in the state.

"Can you believe it? I'll be going to Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday to be ARRESTED," Trump wrote on his social media network Monday night, hours after his bond was set at $200,000.

It will be Trump's fourth arrest since April, when he became the first former president in U.S. history to face indictment. Since then, Trump, who remains the leading candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, has had what has seemed like an endless procession of bookings and arraignments in jurisdictions across the country. His appearances in New York, Florida and Washington, D.C., have drawn enormous media attention, with news helicopters tracking his every move.

Trump's announcement came hours after his attorneys met with prosecutors in Atlanta to discuss the details of his release on bond. The former president is barred from intimidating co-defendants, witnesses or victims in the case—including on social media—according to the bond agreement signed by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, Trump's defense attorneys and the judge. It explicitly includes "posts on social media or reposts of posts" made by others.

Trump has repeatedly used social media to attack people involved in the criminal cases against him as he campaigns to reclaim the White House in 2024. He has been railing against Willis since before he was indicted, and singled out Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp—a Republican who rebuffed his efforts to overturn the election—by name in a social media post Monday morning.

The agreement also prohibits the former president from making any "direct or indirect threat of any nature" against witnesses or co-defendants, and from communicating in any way about the facts of the case with them, except through attorneys.

The order sets Trump's bond for the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations—or RICO—charge at $80,000, and adds $10,000 for each of the 12 other counts he is facing. Bond is the amount defendants must pay as a form of collateral to ensure they show up for required court appearances.

Willis set a deadline of noon Friday for Trump and his 18 co-defendants to turn themselves in to be booked. The prosecutor has proposed that arraignments for the defendants follow during the week of Sept. 5. She has said she wants to try the defendants collectively and bring the case to trial in March of next year, which would put it in the heat of the presidential nominating season.

A Trump spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the filing. A phone message seeking comment was also left for an attorney for the former president.

Trump's appearance in Georgia will come a day after the first Republican primary debate, which he has decided to skip.

He is expected to turn himself in at the Fulton County jail, which has long been plagued with problems. The Department of Justice last month opened a civil rights investigation into conditions, citing filthy cells, violence and the death last year of a man whose body was found covered in insects in the main jail's psychiatric wing. Three people have died in Fulton County custody in the past month.

How mix of natural, human-caused factors cooked up Hilary's soggy mess

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

A natural El Nino, human-caused climate change, a stubborn heat dome over the nation's midsection and other factors cooked up Tropical Storm Hilary's record-breaking slosh into California and Nevada, scientists figure.

Cooked up is the key phrase, since hot water and hot air were crucial in rapidly growing Hilary and then steering the storm on an unusual path that dumped 10 months of rain in a single weekend in normally bone-dry places. Nearly a foot of rain fell along a couple Southern California mountains while cities smashed summertime records.

"It was a combination of sort of a perfect situation of everything coming together in a way that made the storm possible," said University of Albany atmospheric scientist Kristen Corbosiero, an expert on Pacific hurricanes.

It's never easy to attribute a single event to climate change, especially so quickly and with El Nino being a prominent factor, said former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hurricane and climate scientist Jim Kossin, now with the nonprofit First Street Foundation.

To understand Hilary's unusual path, it's best to go where the storm began.

Hilary formed in an area south of Baja California and west of Mexico. Many storms form in the Eastern Pacific there, but most move harmlessly west into the open Pacific or into Mexico and then eventually—weaker—into the U.S. Southwest.

It's one of the most active birthing places for tropical cyclones, Corbosiero said. But the water—fuel for the heat engine that is a hurricane—was about 3.5 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit (2 to 3 degrees Celsius) hotter than normal at the surface and that warmth went deep, said UCLA western weather scientist Daniel Swain.

So Hilary rapidly intensified, gaining 75 mph in wind speed strength in just 24 hours—going from nearly nothing to a Category 4 hurricane in no time.

"We've been seeing (rapid intensification) more and more recently," said Kossin, who did a study showing this phenomenon increasing.

"For a storm to intensify the way Hilary did everything has to be ideal," Kossin said. There has to be warm water, it has to run deep and there has to be little to no crosswinds decapitating the storm, he said. Hilary checked all those boxes.

The water was warm both because of the natural El Nino, a warming of parts of the equatorial Pacific that changes weather worldwide, and because of long-term climate change that has been shattering records for heat deeper in the oceans, scientists said.

UCLA's Swain said there are three main reasons storms that form where Hilary did normally swamp Southern California.

Asia

N. Korea may try to launch anew military spy satellite

TOKYO (AP)—North Korea told Japan on Tuesday it plans to launch a satellite in the coming days, possibly a second try to put a military spy satellite into orbit three months after its first effort failed, Japanese officials said.

In late May, a North Korean rocket carrying a spy satellite plunged into the sea soon after liftoff, posing a setback to leader Kim Jong Un's push to establish a space-based surveillance system to better monitor the U.S. and South Korea. North Korea had vowed to make a second attempt after studying what went wrong with the first launch.

Japan's coast guard said North Korean authorities notified it about a plan to launch a satellite from Aug. 24 and the end of Aug. 30. Coast guard spokesperson Hiromune Kikuchi said that the notice didn't specify what type of satellite North Korea intends to launch but that he believes it possibly refers to one similar to the spy satellite in the May launch.

The North Korean notice mentioned three maritime zones that could be affected by its launch — off the Korean Peninsula's west coast, in the East China Sea and east of the Philippine island of Luzon. Japan issued safety warnings for vessels passing through the three areas, according to the website of the Japanese coast guard.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida instructed officials to do their utmost to gather and analyze any information about the launch and to prepare for any emergencies, according to his office. He also called for cooperation with the U.S., South Korea and other concerned countries to demand North Korea not conduct the launch.

South Korea's Unification Ministry called the North's planned satellite launch "an illegal provocation" because it would violate U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban the country from committing any launch involving ballistic activities. A ministry statement said that South Korea will sternly deal with the North's launch in close coordination with the U.S. and Japan.

The launch plan comes during annual U.S.-South Korean military drills that began Monday. North Korea views the regular U.S.-South Korean military exercises as a rehearsal for invading it and is expected to extend its provocative run of missile tests in reaction to the exercises.

The 11-day Ulchi Freedom Shield drills are computer-simulated command post training. During this year's training period, the U.S. and South Korean militaries also plan more than 30 field training exercises.

On Friday, the leaders of the U.S., South Korea and Japan met for their first stand-alone trilateral summit at Camp David and agreed to increase their defense cooperation to deal with North Korea's increasing nuclear and military threats. Among the steps announced by the leaders were holding annual trilateral exercises and putting into operation by year's end the sharing of real-time missile warning data on North Korea.

Cambodian Parliament approves longtime leader's son as prime minister

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The son of longtime autocratic Cambodian leader Hun Sen was approved by Parliament on Tuesday as the country's new prime minister, part of a generational change in top positions in the Southeast Asian nation.

Hun Manet, 45, won his first seat in the National Assembly in July elections and takes over from his father, who had been Asia's longest serving leader with nearly four decades in power, after serving as Cambodia's army chief.

He was approved by lawmakers unanimously and is to be officially sworn in later Tuesday.

Even though he's at the head of a Cabinet made up of about 3/4 new face s, most are the children or are otherwise related to those they are replacing, and experts caution against expecting broad changes in the country where human rights have been under attack and dissent suppressed.

"There is not a big difference between the generations in political outlook, including in terms of how open or how competitive politics should be," said Astrid Norén-Nilsson, a Cambodia expert at Sweden's Lund University.

"The generational transition is designed to keep the power of the political-cum-business elite intact and perpetuate neopatrimonial arrangements."

In a widely anticipated move, Hun Sen announced that Hun Manet, his oldest son, would succeed him as prime minister shortly after his Cambodian People's Party won a landslide victory in July elections criticized by Western governments and rights groups as neither free nor fair because the main credible opposition party was barred from participating.

His Cabinet includes Tea Seiha, who will be replacing his father, Tea Banh, as minister of National Defense, and Sar Sokha, who is replacing his father, Sar Kheng, as minister of the Interior. Both are also to serve as deputy prime ministers.

"Hun Manet's succession as prime minister of Cambodia is a two-penny farce that would be amusing if a country's fate was not at stake," said Sam Rainsy, a co-founder of the dissolved opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party who has been in self-imposed exile since 2016 to avoid prison for a defamation conviction along with a slew of other legal charges brought by the government.

"Lack of legitimacy is the automatic result of elections without risk," Sam Rainsy said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Hun Sen has progressively tightened his grip on power during his 38 years in office while also ushering in a free-market economy that raised the standards of living of many Cambodians.

At the same time, the gap between the rich and poor greatly widened under his leadership, deforestation spread at an alarming rate, and there was widespread land grabbing by his Cambodian allies and foreign investors.

He has also moved Cambodia politically steadily closer to China, which is currently involved in broadly expanding Cambodia's Ream Naval Base, which Washington worries could give Beijing a strategically important military outpost on the Gulf of Thailand.

World

Zelenskyy thanks Danes in person for F-16s

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked Danish lawmakers Monday for helping his country resist Russia's invasion, a day after Denmark and the Netherlands announced they will provide Kyiv with F-16 warplanes that could be delivered around the end of the year.

AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses the Danish people from the steps of Christiansborg palace, the seat of Danish Parliament, in Copenhagen, Denmark, Monday, Aug. 21, 2023.

» Though planes won't have immediate war impact

Zelenskyy told the lawmakers during a visit to Copenhagen that if Russia's invasion is successful, other parts of Europe would be at risk from the Kremlin's military aggression.

"All of Russia's neighbors are under threat if Ukraine does not prevail," he said in a speech before heading to Greece, the fourth European country he is visiting in three days, for talks with the government.

Zelenskyy says Ukraine is defending Western values of freedom and democracy against tyranny. He has argued that Ukraine needs to be properly provisioned to fend off Russia's much bigger force.

Ukraine has been pressing its Western allies for months to give it American-made F-16s. Its armed forces are still using aging Soviet-era combat planes from the 1970s and '80s, and its counteroffensive against Russian positions is advancing without air support, which analysts say is a major handicap.

In downtown Kyiv on Monday, people welcomed the news about F-16s though they also expressed frustration that the decision hadn't been taken sooner.

"Finally," said 33-year-old Larysa Shymko, who is from a Russia-occupied rea of the southern Kherson region. "I think every Ukrainian has been waiting for this for a long time."

Yurii Lymar, a 38-year-old lawyer, said Ukraine's Western allies "could approve such decisions a little faster, because every day in this ... war means lots of Ukrainian people dying."

Zelenskyy said on Telegram that Ukraine would get 42 jets. Denmark pledged 19 F-16s, which could be delivered around the end of the year when pilot training lasting four to six months is completed.

However, getting Ukrainian squadrons battle-ready could take much longer.

U.S. Air Force Gen. James Hecker, commander of U.S. air forces in Europe and Africa, said last week that he did not expect the F-16s to be a game-changer for Ukraine. Getting F-16 squadrons ready for battle could take "four or five years," he said.

While some training has already begun for Ukrainian pilots, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Sunday it's just language lessons so far.

Russia, China look to advance agendas at BRICS summit

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Russia and China will look to gain more political and economic ground in the developing world at a summit in South Africa this week, when an expected joint dose of anti-West grumbling from them may take on a sharper edge with a formal move to bring Saudi Arabia closer.

Leaders from the BRICS economic bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will hold three days of meetings in Johannesburg's financial district of Sandton, with Chinese premier Xi Jinping's attendance underlining the diplomatic capital his country has invested in the bloc over the last decade-and-a-bit as an avenue for its ambitions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will appear on a video link after his travel to South Africa was complicated by an International Criminal Court arrest warrant against him over the war in Ukraine. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will be at the summit alongside Xi.

The main summit on Wednesday — and sideline meetings Tuesday and Thursday — are expected to produce general calls for more cooperation among countries in the Global South amid their rising discontent over perceived Western dominance of global institutions.

That's a sentiment that Russia and China are more than happy to lean into. Leaders or representatives of dozens more developing countries are set to attend the sideline meetings in Africa's wealthiest city to give Xi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who will represent Putin in South Africa, a sizeable audience.

One specific policy point with more direct implications will be discussed and possibly decided on - the proposed expansion of the BRICS bloc, which was formed in 2009 by the emerging market countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China, and added South Africa the following year.

Saudi Arabia is one of more than 20 countries to have formally applied to join BRICS in another possible expansion, South African officials say. Any move toward the inclusion of the world's second-biggest oil producer in an economic bloc with Russia and China would clearly draw attention from the United States and its allies in an extra-frosty geopolitical climate, and amid a recent move by Beijing to exert some influence in the Persian Gulf.

Good Housekeeping

Crafting the perfect nursery aesthetic for your little one

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

As a mother and a passionate advocate for creating spaces that nurture the soul, there's a particular joy that comes with designing nurseries. These havens hold the promise of new beginnings and cherished moments, where little feet will take their first steps and laughter will fill the air.

A thoughtfully designed nursery can have a profound impact on both parent and child. From choosing the perfect color palette to selecting the softest fabrics, every decision is infused with love and intention.

Join me on a tour through the art of nursery design, where we'll explore timeless aesthetics, modern twists and the heartwarming magic that transforms these spaces into sanctuaries of comfort and dreams.

A playful symphony of blue and red

Nell Hill's designer Liz once embarked on a creative venture with a client seeking the perfect gender-neutral haven for their little one. As she explored an array of fabrics, she stumbled upon a curated few that give off a sense of playfulness without leaning on traditional gender associations.

Among the fabrics, a teal and red color palette emerged, catching our attention with its liveliness. The antelope pattern presented itself as a versatile backdrop, offering a canvas of neutral tones to accentuate with lively splashes of color.

While our final design may have taken a different path, this particular combination resonated deeply with me, showcasing the endless possibilities that could have been explored with an unlimited budget. It's a reminder that in the realm of design, the journey is just as enchanting as the destination.

HANDOUT/TNS

In the realm of nursery design, the journey often leads to delightful surprises and unexpected inspirations.

A serene jungle oasis

Step into a tranquil oasis of soft blues and greens, where imagination takes root with comfort-filled textures. This design, curated by our designer Taylor, celebrates the boundless wonders of the jungle without surrendering to, shall we say, more juvenile motifs.

The cornerstone fabric features zebras and bamboo, giving a sense of wilderness while ensuring a timeless appeal that will grow with the kiddo. Rich textures and fabrics intertwine, inviting tactile exploration and visual intrigue. Each corner whispers tales of nature's beauty, with meticulous trims and details.

The bugs, brought to life by a mesmerizing Samuel & Sons beaded trim and a captivating lamp, dance in unison, adding a touch of whimsy to the serene ambiance. This nursery strikes a delicate balance, embracing a boyish essence without compromising the room's charm.

HANDOUT/TNS

This enchanting nursery design celebrates the boundless wonders of the jungle without surrendering to, shall we say, more juvenile motifs.

Strawberry fields forever

Designer Anne was inspired by the vibrancy of the delightful fruit. This design weaves a tapestry of colors and textures that reflect its essence. From artwork that showcases strawberries to fabrics adorned with their luscious forms, the motif dances across the room with grace. The infusion of reds, greens, and creams creates a refreshing and inviting atmosphere, reminiscent of a sunlit garden. The sweet strawberry-shaped lamp casts a warm and gentle glow, adding a whimsical touch that captures the heart.

The cohesiveness of the design is harmoniously achieved through the artful use of scale—the green and white woven fabric is offset with a gingham pattern, creating visual interest. The range of red tones, from subdued to vivid, paints a canvas of depth and emotion, mirroring the varied shades of strawberries themselves.

Creating these spaces is not just about combining colors and fabrics; it's about crafting a space where dreams take root and memories unfold. Nurturing the imagination of my own two little ones and witnessing their worlds come to life is a privilege that fills my heart.

We believe the magic of design lies in the details, textures and colors that weave together to create a tapestry of love and comfort. As you embark on your own nursery design journey, remember that the most beautiful spaces are those that reflect your personal story, infusing your heart into every corner.

HANDOUT/TNS

Enter a nursery that's as sweet as a ripe strawberry, where every detail sings the joyful melody of this delightful fruit.

What should I ask a kitchen pro when hiring?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
Ask Angi

Kitchen renovations remain some of the most popular home improvement jobs. An updated kitchen often feels better, makes your home look and operate more effectively and can make your home more attractive to buyers. But kitchen remodeling is often a costly job, averaging around $150 per square foot of kitchen size, with most homeowners paying between $15,000 and $45,000 for a major job.

Because of this, hiring a reliable pro is essential. You want someone you can work smoothly with over a long period to get the best kitchen outcome for all sides. When hiring a kitchen contractor, ask these questions to ensure the best fit for your project.

1. Do you consistently work with their subcontractors?

The best remodelers usually have a reliable network of subcontractors to call on. When different groups work together regularly, that often makes jobs go more smoothly up front. If you have a particular contractor you'd like to have on the job, ask how they'll integrate into that process.

2. How will changes be handled?

Even the best-laid plans can sometimes go awry, or a chance for a positive change may develop during the process, so you'll want to define this process in writing in advance. Change orders can involve large amounts of money, so be sure everyone agrees on how they will operate.

3. How will you manage subcontractors and schedules?

Kitchen remodeling is a delicate process, where the hold-up of one thing can cause a delay in others. Ask contractors how they plan to juggle the balls without dropping them.

4. How and when will your workers have access to my home?

You want to be clear on both sides of this vital question.

5. Have you worked on projects like mine before?

It's best to work with someone whose past work aligns with your taste and shows they can carry out your aesthetic vision.

6. Are you licensed, bonded, and insured?

A major remodel will almost always involve licensing. Make sure they hold the proper documentation to work in your city, county or state.

7. What kind of warranty do you offer?

Make sure you get warranties in writing for both workmanship and materials. Good contractors stand behind their work.

8. What kind of materials do you use?

Materials play a big part in the longevity of a kitchen design. Refrain from shaving a few dollars off here and there by ordering lower-quality materials; you may pay for it later when it breaks down or need to be repaired years before they otherwise might have.

9. How will your design move my kitchen forward?

Remodeling a kitchen isn't just a time to replace the cabinets and appliances. Since kitchen remodels generally last for years or decades, you want to consider ways to improve the space, whether those ways are an extra pantry for additional storage or numerous outlets for recharging electrical devices.

How often should you replace your kitchen sponges?

By EBONY WILLIAMS
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

It's probably more often that you think.

If you have a kitchen sponge, there's a good chance you use it multiple times a day — and for various reasons. From washing dishes to wiping down countertops and tables, sponges come in very handy as a quick picker-upper.

But a kitchen sponge should be replaced more often than you might think. According to a 2019 study, a typical kitchen sponge is dirtier than most toilets. Serving as a petri dish of bacteria, it's the "most contaminated item in the household."

"Kitchens are where new bacteria are regularly introduced, both because of human traffic and food preparation. Sponges, which are often warm, wet, and contain traces of old food, are ideal breeding grounds for those bacteria," explained Business Insider.

So how often should you replace your kitchen sponge? According to experts, swapping out your sponges once a week is highly recommended.

"In view of the trillions of germs inside a sponge, probably no domestic method will eradicate all of them, and after a few days or maybe even hours, the sponge is recolonized again." It's also time to trash your sponge if it starts to give off a sour, mildewy stench," advised Phillip Delekta, Ph.D., an instructor in microbiology at Michigan State University in East Lansing, in an interview with The Healthy.

Replacing a sponge that often can be costly, though. Consider buying them in bulk to save money.

You can also clean your sponge, though, as explained above, it probably won't eliminate all the bacteria.

According to "Today," you should "wash the sponge daily in hot, soapy water and then microwave it wet for two minutes. Alternatively, you can soak the sponge for one minute in a solution of 1/2 teaspoon of concentrated bleach to a quart of warm water, but it's still a good idea to replace sponges often."

Life & Style

National Cinema Day is coming, with discounted tickets nationwide

NEW YORK (AP)—Still haven't seen "Barbie" or "Oppenheimer"? This Sunday, you'll be able to catch up for $4 a ticket in movie theaters nationwide.

Theater owners announced Monday that the second annual National Cinema Day will be held Sunday, Aug. 27. For one day, all movies—in all formats and at all showtimes—will be $4 at participating theaters. More than 3,000 theaters are participating, which accounts for most of the cinemas in the U.S., including the leading chains AMC and Regal.

It's the second straight year theaters are trotting out the one-day event at the tail end of summer. Last year's inaugural National Cinema Day, put on by the Cinema Foundation, a nonprofit affiliate of the National Association of Theater Owners, was judged an enormous success. An estimated 8.1 million moviegoers bought $3 tickets on Saturday, Sept. 3. The average movie ticket in 2022, according to NATO, cost $10.53.

The discount gimmick turned into the highest attended day of the year for theaters. A normally quiet time instead saw cinemas crowded with moviegoers—and theaters sold plenty of popcorn. This year, the day is moving up slightly on the calendar, shifting from Saturday to Sunday, and costs $1 more.

But thanks to remarkably sustained interest in "Barbie," as well as in "Oppenheimer," the August box office has been booming. The summer box office is up to $3.8 billion in ticket sales through Sunday, according to data firm Comscore—about 16.6% ahead of 2022 at the same point.

While last year's Cinema Day had fairly paltry offerings ("Top Gun: Maverick" was the top draw, more than two months after it opened), this year's will feature "Barbie" in its fifth week. Greta Gerwig's record-breaking film has made $1.28 billion worldwide. There's also Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" ($717.8 million globally), the second week of the DC Comics film "Blue Beetle" and new releases "Gran Turismo," "Golda," "Bottoms" and "Retribution."

The event is also a way for studios to sell audiences on their fall lineups. A sneak peek of anticipated autumn releases will play before each screening.

Tenor Freddie de Tommaso, a young British sensation, makes US debut

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—"British Tenor Saves Night at Opera," proclaimed the Daily Mail.

Tommaso

The opera was Puccini's "Tosca," and the tenor was then-28-year-old Freddie de Tommaso, jumping in at London's Royal Opera House when the scheduled singer withdrew after Act 1 because of illness.

That was nearly two years ago. Now de Tommaso has just made his U.S. debut at the Santa Fe Opera in the same role, appearing to enthusiastic applause on Aug. 12, five days after a bout of laryngitis forced him to cancel his first performance. His final performance is Saturday.

And he'll return in the 2024-25 season for another debut, this time at the Metropolitan Opera, where he'll again be Tosca's lover, Mario Cavaradossi.

In an interview at the opera house here, de Tommaso reflected on his career so far and the "star is born" moment in London that first brought him headlines.

"So many people thought I was like an understudy or somebody they found walking down the street whistling 'Tosca,' and that wasn't the case," he recalled. In fact, he had been part of the second cast and was already scheduled to perform the role three nights later.

"But it was incredibly exciting," he said, his animated tone reflecting his exuberant personality. "From the moment I put my costume on until I took my bow two hours later, it felt like about 90 seconds."

De Tommaso's exposure to opera began while he was growing up in Tunbridge Wells, where he sang in his school choir. His mother took him to performances and his Italian-born father, who ran a restaurant, serenaded diners with Luciano Pavarotti recordings.

Once he decided to study singing seriously, he applied to the Royal Academy of Music. Mark Wildman, who became his teacher, remembers hearing him audition.

"My first impression of his voice was that it was a robust but rough-hewn diamond of a baritone voice with a surprisingly easy top for one so young," Wildman said. "He looked like a singer: big broad shoulders, barrel-chested, together with a very strong physique and a voice that matched."

Voice of Nintendo's Mario character steps down

REDMOND, Wash. (AP)—Charles Martinet, the original voice of Mario in Nintendo games since the 1990s, is stepping down.

Nintendo of America confirmed Monday that Martinet will now serve in the role of "Mario Ambassador," traveling around the world to promote the beloved plumber, signing autographs and performing Nintendo character voices.

"It's been a privilege working with Charles to help bring Mario to life for so many years and we want to thank and celebrate him," Nintendo said in a statement.

AP
A person passes an ad featuring the Nintendo character Mario at Narita airport in Narita near Tokyo on June 10, 2022.

In addition to being the original voice of Mario, he's also voiced Luigi, Wario and Waluigi in the video games. While he did not voice Mario in the recent movie, he did have a small role as Mario's dad.

In a question and answer session at a Canadian gaming and comics expo two years ago, Martinet told the audience "I want to voice Mario until I drop dead" in response to a fan's question, according to gaming blog The Game Crater. But he added "if someday I think I am no longer capable of doing it, I will tell Nintendo to look into finding someone else."

Nintendo did not give say why Martinet is stepping down or who would replace him as Mario's voice.

Spanish singer Miguel Bosé robbed, bound in Mexico City house

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Spanish pop star Miguel Bosé said Monday that 10 armed assailants burst into his house in Mexico City and tied him up, his two children and household staff for more than two hours while they ransacked the premises.

Bosé wrote in his Instagram account that he and his children are okay following the Friday home-invasion robbery. But he described the ordeal as "very tense, uneasy, and unpleasant." Bosé said the assailants took his vehicle and other possessions before leaving.

He added that he was not thinking of leaving Mexico because of the crime.

The city prosecutor's office said in a statement Monday that agents went to the gated community where the robbery occurred on the city's west side but were not allowed in and that nobody had filed a crime report. It said the singer's stolen SUV was recovered miles away.

It was one of two violent events in Mexico City involving foreigners over the weekend.

On Saturday, thieves on a motorcycle shot to death a man from India on an expressway, apparently to steal $10,000 he had changed at a money exchange at the Mexico City international airport.

The Embassy of India said in a statement that "in the extremely regrettable and tragic death of an Indian national," it is in touch with Mexico's law enforcement agencies, hoping the culprits will be apprehended soon and give justice to the victim's family.

Man's risque questions to others bother wife

DEAR ABBY: My husband has, for years, felt the need to talk filthy and ask sexual questions of other women. It bothers me something terrible. He's upset that I ruin his "fun," and insists he isn't hurting anyone and that he likes being the life of the party. We have fought over this for years, and I'm exhausted from it.

I told him I don't see the need for him to do this, and he continues to tell me I need to quit being so unreasonable. I don't know what to do, and I'm ready to just give up. It doesn't make me love or respect him. I actually loathe him when he does it. Please help.

REPELLED IN IOWA

DEAR REPELLED: It's sad that your husband would continue to do something he knows embarrasses you. You can't change him, so it's time to change the way you react to his outrageous behavior. Try ignoring him and distancing yourself when it happens.

It would be interesting to know how his questions affect the women he's asking. Do THEY consider him to be the life of the party or just a (possibly) drunken boor? Because you have already talked to him until you're blue in the face, start talking to THEM. Perhaps, if you present a united front, he will stop.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am getting married in a few months, and half of my bridesmaids recently colored their hair unnatural colors. Their new hair colors clash with the color of the dresses we've chosen as well as the overall theme of my wedding.

At first, it didn't bother me because I used to have wild hair, too. I get it. However, I was once in a wedding where the bride asked me to keep my hair a natural color for her big day, and I didn't have any issue with her asking. Now I'm wondering if that is the norm. I also know it costs an arm and a leg to color a full head of hair, so I'm afraid it would be awful of me to ask them to undo what they just did.

Because I'm new to the wedding scene, I feel like my bridesmaids should have run this by me first, since we have only a couple months left before my big day. Would it be inappropriate to talk to my ladies about their new hair colors?

HAIR IN THE WEST

DEAR HAIR: I don't think it would be inappropriate to talk to your bridesmaids about your concerns. However, if they are unwilling to change, try to remember the reason you chose these friends. I sincerely hope it was for attributes other than their looks.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How do I convince my liberal parents that my bisexuality is not a phase? I'm 16, and I just came out. My mom told me she'd "had a gay phase, too." I don't want conflict, but I'm also pretty hurt. How do I convince them to take me seriously? BI

GIRL IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR GIRL: Your mother was not trying to hurt or diminish what you told her. In fact, she told you something important about herself -- that she, too, has been attracted to both men and women. Don't waste your time trying to "convince" her of anything. Live your life authentically and you will be just fine.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

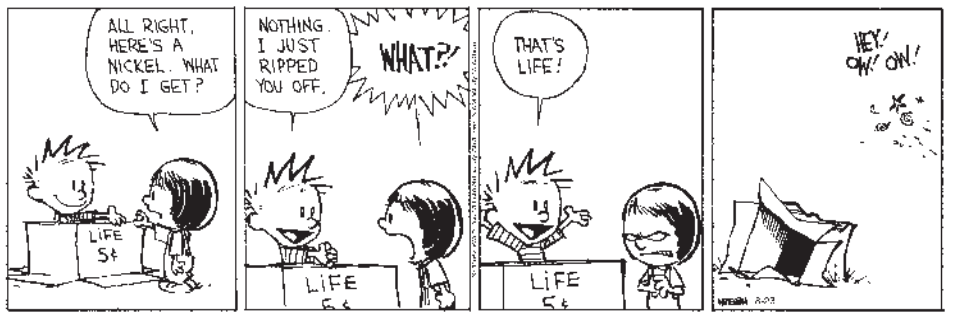
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

"DEAR ASK A DOG, HOW CAN I GET MY NEIGHBOR'S DOG TO STOP BARKING?"
BARK! BARK!
JIM DAVIS 8-23
BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK!
GET TO THE POINT!
BARK! BARK! BARK!

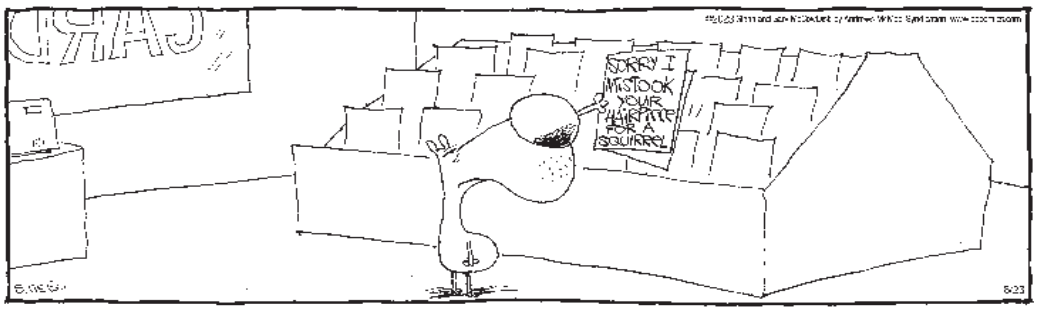
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW ARE YOU WRITING YOUR BOOK SO FAST?
I DON'T KNOW, ADAM. I JUST... I WRITE FAST.
YEAH, AND IT'S GOOD WRITING, TOO. I BET YOU DON'T EVEN MAKE TYPOS.
YOU MAKE TYPOS?
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR MARRYING ABOVE MYSELF!
MARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Telly watcher
5 Pooch
8 Jr. year exam
12 Vow
13 Web address
14 Scottish lake
15 Arctic footwear
17 Hendrix hairdo
18 Purse part
19 Newspaper chief
21 Pitcher Nolan
24 UFO crew
25 Bygone days
28 Fixes illegally
30 Harpy
33 "Humbug!"
34 Dreary
35 Texas tea
36 — Paulo, Brazil
37 Medics
38 Long lunch?
39 LAX info
41 Fencing sword
43 Metallic mixtures
46 Mesa — National Park
50 Anjou, for one
51 Squeeze (into)
54 Treaty
55 Prom rental
56 Scored 100 on
57 Biblical pronoun
58 Hit show letters
59 Witty ones

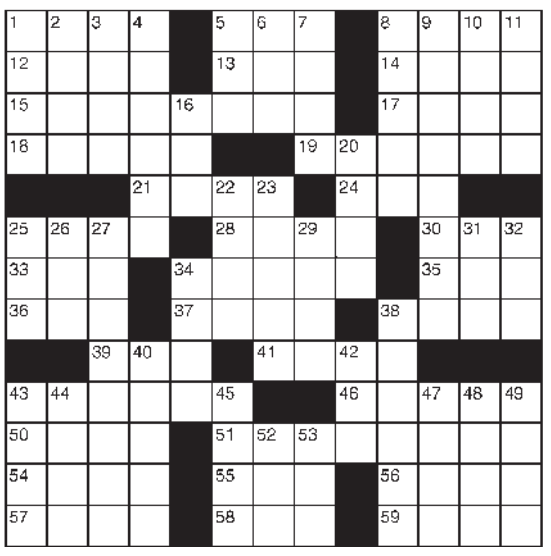
DOWN

1 Employer
2 Harangue
3 "Believe — not!"
4 Stymie
5 "Gee, ya think?"
6 Acapulco gold
7 Jubilation
8 Braid of hair
9 Tap-dance style
10 "Top" combining form?
11 Thunder god
16 Secret agent
20 Cubicle fixture
22 Folk singer Guthrie
23 Blue Ivy, to Solange
25 "Nova" airer
26 Small battery
27 Sneaker tie
29 React in horror
31 Football filler
32 Day- — paint
34 Party time, briefly
38 Donkey's comment
40 Rich cake
42 Cain's mom
43 Abbr. on a schedule
44 Sister of Rachel
45 Bygone fliers
47 Cape —, Portugal
48 Barrel bottom bit
49 Concludes
52 "Ben- —"
53 Vegetable peeler brand

Solution time: 23 mins.

P	F	A	R		G	A	G		H	O	I	M
C	A	S	A		O	S	U		F	D	I	F
S	U	I	T	C	A	S	E		C	L	S	
			T	A	T		R	A	H	R	A	H
G	O	L	A	N		W	N	B	A			
O	R	A	N		C	A	S	E	W	O	R	K
S	C	I		C	R	R	L	D		M	A	I
H	A	R	D	B	O	D	Y		S	C	C	T
			H	O	S	S		P	U	N	K	S
S	A	T	I	N	S		A	R	B			
W	O	O	F		B	O	D	Y	S	U	I	T
A	N	A	T		O	R	D		C	R	N	C
I	E	D	S		W	E	S		I	I	D	E

Yesterday's answer 8-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Lin, 35; Scott Caan, 47; Shelley Long, 74; Barbara Eden, 92.

Happy Birthday: Slow down, think matters through and build a solid foundation this year. Plan every move and follow through with strength, courage and facts to ensure you reach your target and maintain your reputation. Refuse to let emotions step in and take over when dealing with sensitive issues that can affect your personal or professional life. Make every word and move count. Your numbers are 8, 14, 17, 26, 34, 39, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be careful who you trust with personal information. Choose a healthy lifestyle and a minimalist attitude to avoid overindulgence due to hasty decisions. Honesty is the best way to handle situations that compromise your position. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Think and act, and you'll make headway. Mix business with pleasure, and your connections will amplify your chances to advance. Refuse to give in to a temptation that might tarnish your reputation or give someone a chance to make you look bad. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get the facts; don't act on hearsay. Your reputation will be at risk if you are too quick to judge or respond. Evaluate your lifestyle, looks and direction, and adjust anything slowing you down or causing you grief. Improve your surroundings. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Spend more time on details and honoring promises. The help you give others will offer unexpected rewards and assure that you'll receive the same kind of treatment in return. An offer will tempt you, but don't take on more than you can handle. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep tabs on what's happening around you. Don't overplay a situation or act hastily. Time is on your side, and patience will pay off. Spend more time on self-improvement instead of trying to convince others to change. Refuse to let jealousy ruin your day. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't share secrets or offer unnecessary information. Using experience, you must decide what's in your best interest based on the changes you make. Trips and educational pursuits will end up going over budget. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put your best foot forward and network. The connections you make will offer suggestions that tap into your strategy for what's to come and how to make the most of what you've got. The gestures you make will determine the support you receive. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A partnership looks better than anticipated. Do your due diligence, and you'll clear your mind of any anxiety about changes. Your dedication will not go unnoticed, and an extended invitation is one you should consider. Tidy up loose ends. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Revisit how you present yourself to the world, and consider sporting a trendy new look. Fitting in will position you to get the support you require to get things done on time. Don't count on others; oversee and redo if necessary. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take advantage of whatever comes your way; your efficiency will lead to victory. Your instincts are on target, and your ability to manipulate situations to suit your needs is extraordinary. Don't be afraid to do things differently. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep moving forward, regardless of what others do or say. Don't venture down a path to avoid friction. It's up to you to make decisions that help you forge ahead instead of fast-forwarding someone else's agenda. Take better care of yourself and your loved ones. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A detailed plan will go hand in hand with getting what you want and when. Stay focused on your end game and remain intent on strategically putting everything in its place. Don't let temptation stand between you and what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, bighearted and smart. You are protective and responsive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						2		9
5	6	8					4	
			3	4				
						5	8	
	2	4	6		8		3	7
	9					4		1
4			5		2			8
		7		9		1		4
2			4				9	

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	3	8	7	2	4	6	5	9
2	7	9	6	8	5	4	3	1
6	5	4	3	9	1	7	8	2
7	9	1	5	3	6	2	4	8
3	8	5	4	1	2	9	7	6
4	2	6	8	7	9	5	1	3
8	6	3	9	5	7	1	2	4
5	4	2	1	6	8	3	9	7
9	1	7	2	4	3	8	6	5

Difficulty: ★★ 8/22

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

AMBIENT MUSIC Solution: 8 letters

S	C	A	L	E	C	N	A	R	(T)	T	O	N	E	T
L	E	X	A	L	E	R	E	S	T	(F)	F	C	R	R
E	E	M	L	E	A	R	N	E	C	I	(O)	V	U	O
E	R	L	I	M	E	F	A	C	R	N	Y	(S)	T	F
P	A	N	E	H	E	D	R	E	C	I	D	H	A	M
I	T	I	E	V	C	E	P	E	L	T	U	A	N	O
N	I	L	Q	G	A	L	N	U	T	N	T	R	Y	C
S	U	O	U	D	A	T	F	S	D	A	S	M	B	R
T	G	I	I	C	R	T	O	E	E	A	W	O	A	I
R	N	V	E	A	H	N	R	R	M	V	T	N	L	C
U	I	E	T	G	A	N	A	E	C	O	A	Y	L	K
M	S	I	U	I	E	R	U	T	X	E	T	E	U	E
E	O	O	P	M	E	T	R	A	N	Q	U	I	L	T
N	H	U	M	M	I	N	G	N	I	H	T	O	O	S
T	A	E	P	E	R	H	Y	T	H	M	O	O	D	N

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 8/23

Cafe, Chimes, Comfort, Concentration, Crickets, Elevator, Emotion, Fireplace, Genre, Guitar, Harmony, Humming, Instrument, Learn, Leaves, Lullaby, Mood, Nature, Ocean, Piano, Quiet, Read, Relax, Repeat, Rest, Rhythm, Scale, Sing, Sleep, Soft, Soothing, Study, Tempo, Texture, Thoughtful, Thunder, Tone, Trance, Tranquil, Violin, Voice, Waterfall

Yesterday's Answer: Klamath Falls

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, ca. 1-866-232-2367)

Mets launch 3 homers to beat MLB-leading Braves

ATLANTA (AP)— While it's too late to make much of a difference this season, the New York Mets are finally having a bit of fun.

DJ Stewart, Rafael Ortega and Francisco Lindor homered as the Mets won for the seventh time in nine games, beating the MLB-leading Braves 10-4 on Monday night despite two homers by Atlanta's Marcell Ozuna.

Going ahead to stay with a four-run fifth inning, the Mets bounced back from an embarrassing series at Citi Field just over a week ago.

Atlanta won the first three games of that meeting by a combined score of 34-3 before the Mets salvaged the finale 7-6.

This time, New York got off to a winning start in a three-game set at Truist Park, winning for the first time in Atlanta and just the third time in eight meetings against their NL East rival in 2023.

"The guys are getting comfortable with each other," Stewart said. "The clubhouse is upbeat. You're seeing the results on the field."

After Ozuna's second homer of the night pushed the Braves to their first lead, 4-3 in the fourth, Jeff McNeil, Pete Alonso, Daniel Vogelbach came through with consecutive RBI singles against Allan Winans (1-1).

After Brad Hand replaced Winans, Stewart dropped down a bunt on the safety squeeze to bring home Alonso.

Lindor put the game out of reach with his 23rd homer, a three-run drive off Hand in the sixth.

Manager Buck Showalter said he's pleased with "the intensity and competitiveness the guys continue to show," even though the Mets gave up on this season at the trade deadline. They still trail the Braves by 22 games.

David Peterson lasted 4 2/3 innings for the Mets, one out shy of qualifying for the win. That went to Phil Bickford (3-4), who struck out three in 1 1/3 innings.

Ozuna had the 17th multi-homer game of his career and third this season. He launched solo homers in the second and fourth innings, giving him 26 for the year.

Winans returned from the minors to make his third start of the season for the Braves—and second in a row against the Mets, the organization where he started his pro career.

This one didn't go nearly as well as the previous outing, when he threw seven scoreless innings for his first big league win.

Winans was charged with seven runs on nine hits in 4 1/3 innings, including a pair of homers in the third.

AP

New York Mets' Francisco Lindor watches his three-run home run in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, in Atlanta.

Stewart launched a drive down the right-field line for his sixth homer of the season, and Ortega followed with a two-run shot into the right-field seats for his first homer since joining the Mets.

"I like to see that a guy who pitched well against us last time, we made some adjustments to him and did a little better job this time," Showalter said.

Bickford and three other relievers combined to blank the high-scoring Braves on just two hits.

After Bickford's stint, Sam Coonrod, Adam Ottavino and Drew Smith each worked a scoreless frame.

"The bullpen did an outstanding job behind me," Peterson said.

Ozuna became the fifth Atlanta hitter to reach 25 homers, a franchise record for a single season.

He joined Matt Olson (43), Austin Riley (29), Ozzie Albies (28) and Ronald Acuña Jr. (28).

Sean Murphy (20) and Eddie Rosario (19) also have a realistic shot to reach 25 homers for the Braves.

Mets outfielder Starling Marte got a second opinion on his right groin strain, which showed no major setbacks. "They did some things that we hope speed up the process," Showalter said.

Infielder Mark Vientos (left wrist tendinitis) could come off the IL by the weekend. The only question is whether he might do a short rehab stint in the minors.

Showalter didn't sound as hopeful about infielder Luis Guillorme, (right calf strain). "I don't want to say he's inching along," the manager said. "He's moving along slowly but surely."

MARINERS 14, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Cal Raleigh homered twice and drove in six runs, and Seattle beat Chicago for its seventh straight victory.

Luis Castillo (10-7) pitched seven innings of one-run ball in his third consecutive win.

Raleigh and Teoscar Hernández opened the fifth with back-to-back homers off Touki Toussaint (1-6), increasing Seattle's lead to 7-1. Raleigh added a three-run shot in the eighth against Brent Honeywell, and Dominic Canzone also went deep.

The White Sox lost for the seventh time in nine games. They have been outscored 44-18 in their last four games.

PHILLIES 10, GIANTS 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper hit an inside-the-park home run, three teammates went deep and Aaron Nola pitched seven strong innings to lead Philadelphia past San Francisco in a matchup of teams leading the National League wild-card race.

Kyle Schwarber, Alec Bohm and Edmundo Sosa also homered for the Phillies, who moved three games ahead of the Giants in the wild-card standings.

LaMonte Wade Jr. and Joc Pederson homered for the Giants, who have lost four of five and 11 of 15. Sean Manaea (4-4) took the loss.

San Francisco began play 1½ games ahead of three fourth-placed teams in the race for wild-card spots. Arizona, Cincinnati and Miami entered Monday chasing a playoff spot with 64-61 marks.

Nola (11-8) was hit hard early before settling down. He wound up allowing two runs on seven hits with five strikeouts and a walk.

ASTROS 9, RED SOX 4

HOUSTON (AP)—Chas McCormick homered twice and had four RBIs to lead Houston past Boston.

The Astros bounced back after a three-game sweep by the Seattle Mariners this weekend. Houston opened its four-game series with a victory over Boston, which was coming off a sweep of the New York Yankees.

Adam Duvall hit a three-run homer off Cristian Javier (9-2) in the first to put the Red Sox up early. But Houston quickly jumped on James Paxton (7-4) to erase the deficit.

Yordan Alvarez drove in a run in the bottom of the first and the Astros scored three in the second to go on top 4-3. Yainer Diaz also homered for Houston.

Javier allowed seven hits and three runs in five innings for his second straight win.

Paxton yielded nine hits and seven runs—both season highs—while tying a season high with three walks in just four innings.

CUBS 7, TIGERS 6

DETROIT (AP)—Yan Gomes and Nick Madrigal hit doubles in the ninth inning and Chicago held on to beat Detroit for its third straight win.

Seiya Suzuki hit a homer for the second straight day and a three-run second inning helped the Cubs take an early lead.

Daniel Palencia (3-0) retired two batters and stranded two runners in the eighth to keep the score tied after Michael Fulmer gave up three runs in the inning against his former team. Mark Leiter Jr. pitched the ninth for his fourth save in six chances.

Beau Brieske (0-1) allowed two runs on three hits in the ninth.

Spencer Torkelson and Kerry Carpenter hit home runs for the second game in a row, clearing the fences on consecutive pitches in the sixth inning to cut Detroit's deficit to 4-2.

PIRATES 11, CARDINALS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Joshua Palacios hit a three-run home run and had a career-high five RBIs to help Pittsburgh send last-place St. Louis to its fifth loss in six games.

Palacios' drive capped a four-run fourth inning to put the Pirates ahead 8-0 and chased starter Drew Rom (0-1), who was a loser in his big league debut.

Connor Joe tripled three times and rookie Endy Rodriguez also had three hits for the Pirates. Andrew McCutchen, Palacios and Alika Williams added two hits each as Pittsburgh finished with 16.

Bailey Falter (1-7) allowed one run in six innings for his first win since Sept. 30, while pitching for Philadelphia against Washington. The lefthander tied a career high with eight strikeouts.

PADRES 6, MARLINS 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Ha-Seong Kim hit a grand slam and a double, stole third and scored twice to lead San Diego to a critical win against Miami in a battle between two NL wild-card hopefuls.

The Padres (60-66) are four games behind the Marlins (64-62) in the wild-card race.

San Diego starter Michael Wacha (10-2) worked 5 1/3 innings, giving up one run, five hits and striking out seven.

Marlins starter Ryan Weathers (1-8) lasted 3 1/3 innings, giving up five runs and five hits while walking five and striking out four.

Manny Machado hit his 24th homer. In the first, Machado hit a sacrifice fly that plated Kim, who had doubled and stolen third.

ATHLETICS 6, ROYALS 4

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Brent Rooker hit a two-run home run off Dylan Coleman (0-2) in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Oakland a win over Kansas City in a matchup of teams with the worst records in the major leagues.

Zack Gelof, Jordan Diaz and Shea Langeliers also went deep for the MLB-worst Athletics (35-90), who snapped a three-game skid and won for the second time in 10 games.

The Athletics won in front of their fifth-smallest crowd of the season (3,095) and avoided falling 56 games under .500 for the first time since 1920.

Bobby Witt Jr. hit his 25th home run for Kansas City. The Royals (40-87) have dropped six of seven.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, RANGERS 3, 11 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP)—Tommy Pham lined a two-run double in the 11th inning after Ketel Marte hit a tying homer in the ninth, lifting Arizona over AL West-leading Texas.

The Rangers led 1-0 going into the ninth inning after Adolis Garcia hit his 31st homer and Jordan Montgomery scattered four hits over eight innings.

Texas went with Aroldis Chapman over Will Smith (1-5) to close out the game—and it backfired. Marte hit the first pitch he saw out to left for a solo homer to tie the game.

The Rangers went up 3-1 on Nathaniel Lowe's two-run single off Kevin Ginkel (7-0) in the 11th and sent out Smith for the bottom half.

Geraldo Perdomo hit a run-scoring double and, after Marte was held at third, Pham dropped a two-run double in right-center to extend the Rangers' losing streak to a season-high five games.

The Diamondbacks have won eight of 10 to pull within a half-game of San Francisco for the final NL wild card spot.

Women's World Cup teams head home to different futures

SYDNEY (AP)—Teams headed home from the Women's World Cup with uncertain futures but hopes that the month-long tournament would spur new interest and further investment in the game.

For some teams, like Nigeria, the Philippines and Jamaica, the struggle for funding, support and recognition will continue.

More established teams like Germany, Brazil, Canada and the United States now begin the post-tournament soul-searching about what went wrong.

Spain, which defeated England 1-0 in the final on Sunday, can revel as first-time champions.

"We need to be ready, because after this FIFA Women's World Cup women's football is going to explode in every single one of your countries," FIFA chief women's football officer Sarai Bareman said at a women's soccer conference held in the days before the final. "We need to be ready for it. There will be millions and millions of women and girls around the world who will sign up to play football for the first time ever after this World Cup.

"Everyone needs to stand ready, with investment, with infrastructure, with coaches, with referees, with tournaments, member associations, federations, confederations. We need to stand ready to receive that interest and retain it in our game in a sustainable way."

The next major tournament for women's soccer is next year's Olympics in France. The French were eliminated from the World Cup in a penalty shootout after a scoreless draw with co-host Australia in the quarterfinals.

Before France even got to the World Cup the team had some upheaval. Wendie Renard threatened not to play for the team, and the French federation responded by firing coach Corinne Diacre in March and hiring Herve Renard, who coached Saudi Arabia's men at the World Cup in Qatar.

Herve Renard, whose contract runs through the Paris Olympics, was already looking forward to next year.

"We have no regrets," he said. "Next year we'll be back, we'll be back at home and we are going to try and glean something from this."

The United States is in the market for a new coach after the two-time defending World Cup champions crashed out of the tournament at the earliest point ever. Sweden defeated the United States in a penalty shootout in the round of 16.

U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski resigned after the tournament. The team needs to work fast to name a replacement, because the Americans are among four teams who have already qualified for the Olympics — along with France, Brazil and Colombia.

The Brazilians didn't emerge from the group stage for the first time since 1995. Afterward, Marta said a tearful goodbye after her sixth World Cup.

"Women's football doesn't end here. Women's football in Brazil doesn't end here," Marta said. "We need to understand this."

Nigeria has asked global players' union FIFPRO to intervene and make sure the team received the World Cup bonuses for every player participating in the tournament. Nigeria's players were each set to earn $60,000 for advancing to the knockout round. The Super Falcons fell to England on penalties in the round o1 6.

FIFPRO confirmed it was assisting the team in not only receiving the bonuses, but also other payments dating back to 2021.

FIFA dedicated individual payments from the prize pool for each player at the World Cup. All participants were to receive $30,000, with the total growing the further along teams got in the tournament. FIFPRO was going to lend help to make sure each player received the funds.

Spain's players each earned a $270,000 bonus for winning the tournament. The federation earned $4.29 million.

The Philippines was among eight teams playing in their first World Cup. The team upset New Zealand 1-0 in the group stage for a historic victory. But it wasn't enough to get the team out of the group stage.

Canada returns to a messy contract situation with its federation. The women's team has been without a contract for a year, and reached an interim funding agreement during the tournament that guaranteed the players would be paid.

The Canadians will be back at work soon, hosting Jamaica in an Olympic qualifier in late September.

The Reggae Girlz did not have many friendly matches in the run-up to the World Cup and there were crowdfunding campaigns to help the players pay for travel and accommodations. It was hoped that their success in the World Cup — they advanced to the knockout round for the first time — would translate into additional support from the Jamaican federation.

"The smaller countries will realize that there's a platform out there and I think young women all over the world, they're looking," Jamaica coach Lorne Donaldson said. "I think all of these governments, everybody, it's time to step up. Cut the bull crap and step up for women's football and let's move along."

Morocco was another of the first-time teams in the World Cup and played well enough to advance to the knockout round, a first for an Arab and North African team at the World Cup.

Morocco has poured money into its women's program. The federation not only created an academy but it pays its players monthly wages to encourage young women to play.

"I look at these debutant teams, I look at these players, so investment is paying dividends," former U.S. coach Jill Ellis said. "I am yelling from the highest mountain top that it's not a matter of if you should, it's why would you not invest in women's football?"

AP

Morocco's Nouhaila Benzina, left, is helped to her feet by teammate Sarah Kassi following the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between France and Morocco in Adelaide, Australia, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023.

Spain poised for long run among soccer elite with talented young team

SYDNEY (AP)—Newly crowned Women's World Cup champion Spain has established itself for a long run among soccer's elite with its young and talented roster of rising stars.

La Roja defeated England 1-0 in Sunday's final for their first major tournament title. Over the course of the month-long event, Spain played through the turbulence of last year's player rebellion and the injury-diminished role of two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas.

Aitana Bonmati, at just 25 years old, solidified her credentials as a top midfielder, and 19-year-old forward Salma Paralluelo proved to be a rising global star.

"I know that this is the dream we've had since we were little. So right now it is difficult to comprehend. But when we get home, we'll really know what we did," Paralluelo said. "It's something huge."

Spain joined Germany as the only two nations to win both men's and women's World Cup titles and Bonmati spoke about inspiring a generation—just like her hero Andres Iniesta influenced her in 2010 when the Spanish men won the World Cup in South Africa.

Bonmati and her teammates after the match were already wearing new jerseys that included the star above Spain's crest that signifies a World Cup title.

"Today we have this star and this medal and this cup, but it's for all of them, all of those who have fought for more equality and to get us to a better place," said Bonmati. "We love that we could contribute our part to be role models for all those girls and boys. Very emotional to have achieved something so extraordinary."

More than anything else, Spain's victory showed that the rest of the world is catching up to the traditional powers. Germany, Brazil and the United States all suffered surprisingly early exits from the tournament.

Few expected the traditional soccer powerhouses to have long gone home by the time Spain hoisted the trophy.

An expanded field of 32 teams was expected to expose the disparity in the women's game. But instead, teams including Morocco, South Africa and Jamaica all advanced to the knockout round to defy expectations. Morocco was one of eight teams playing in its first Women's World Cup.

The semifinals included four teams that had never won a World Cup title: Spain, England, Sweden and Australia. Sweden defeated Australia 2-0 in the third-place match.

Spain was certainly among the top teams heading into the tournament, but not the favorite. The favorite was the United States, the two-time defending champions. But the Americans were eliminated on a penalty shootout with Sweden in the Round of 16, the team's earliest departure from the tournament ever.

While Spain had been building to this point — nine players on the squad were from Champions League winner Barcelona, and the country had claimed the 2018 under-17 World Cup and the 2022 under-20 World Cup — turmoil surrounding the team in the past year had created doubts.

Last September, 15 players stepped down from the national team in order to protect their mental health. They called on the Spanish federation to create a more professional environment. Three of the "Las 15"—Bonmati, Ona Batlle and Mariona Caldentey—returned to the team for the tournament.

Then there was the uncertainty surrounding Putellas, the back-to-back Ballon d'Or winner, who tore her ACL last year and was clearly still working her way back during the course of the World Cup. She started on the bench for the title match, while Paralluelo got her first start.

"We fought hard, that's the truth, until we felt like we had nothing left. But when we go to the airport and see a girl with a football or with a football jersey and the desire to play it fills us with energy again and makes us keep fighting for what we're still missing," Putellas said.

Spain's joy over the championship was tinged with sadness, too.

Following the match the Spanish federation reported that Olga Carmona's father had died following a long illness. She was told after the match.

Carmona scored the lone goal in the match against England. She also scored the game-winner in the 89th minute over Sweden in the semifinals. She is just the seventh player in tournament history to score in both the semifinals and finals.

Paralluelo, who won young player of the tournament honors, was among a group of players who stole the spotlight during the tournament. She joined Colombia's 18-year-old phenom Linda Caicedo, and 23-year-old Hinata Miyazawa, who scored five goals to win the tournament's Golden Boot.

Older stars played in their final World Cup, including Brazilian legend Marta, U.S. forward Megan Rapinoe, Sweden's Caroline Seger and Argentina's Estephani Banini.

Joel Buco leads Hell of Marianas race series

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran biker Joel Buco rolled his bike through the Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, Banzai Cliff, and Radar route the fastest in the second stage of the 2023 Hell of the Marianas held last Sunday.

With his top finish of 1:03:57 in this road bike race and series one's time of 1:15:37, Buco leads the pack in both series for the fastet total time of 2:19:34

Second in series two is Rolando Gacayan with a time of 1:05:08; series one was 1:15:35 for a total time of 2:20:43.

Nap Dizon came in third fastest in series two with a time of 1:07:57; series one's time was 1:19:31 for a total time of 2:27:28.

Ren Ren Gaviola is third overall in total time with 2:23:58, but came in fourth in this series with a time of 1:08:10; his series one time was 1:15:48.

Hernan Cristobal was fifth with a time of 1:09:10; series one time was 1:20:49 for a total time of 2:29:59.

In the 40 below category, Arvin Velasco led with his time of 1:05:36; second was Aladin Deocareza's 1:13:28; and third was Roy Hernandez with a time of 1:28:47.

The 40-44 age group was dominated by Jay-Ar Barrios with a time of 1:13:11; his series one time was 1:20:41 for a total time of 2:33:52; Fred Remilloza came in second with 1:23:48; his series one time was 1:43:27 for a total time 3:07:15; and third was Rio "Pacman" Jacob with a time of 1:26:48.

Leo Baetiong came in first in the 50-54 age group with 1:10:52. In series one, he timed in at 1:19:13 for a total time 2:30:05; Renato Barros was second with a time of 1:36:46, improved from his 1:48:50 series one time, for a total time of 3:25:36; and last was Rusty Valino with a time of 1:19:55.

In the 55-59 age group, Noel Altamirano came in first with a time of 1:21:03; series one was 1:31:05 for a total time of 2:52:08; Nomer Mangalinao came in second with 1:28:02; series one was 1:31:49 for a total time of 2:59:51; and Bernard Laborce was third with a time of 1:42:03; series one was 1:31:39 for a total time 3:13:42.

Pax Guevarra came in first in the 60-65 age group with 1:17:45; series one time was 1:25:09 for a total time of 2:42:54; and Ponce Corotan came in second with 1:22:16; his series one time was 1:26:54 for a total time of 2:59:36.

Stephen Nutting was the lone racer for the 70-and-above category and finished at 1:46:37. His series one time was 1:44:37 for a total time of 3:31:14.

There was also a road bike women's category with Jay Ann Felipe taking first place with a time of 1:25:51; Marjorie Ganacias was second at 1:32:13.

In the MTB category, Mike Aparte clocked in first at 1:15:59; his series one time 1:25:09 for a total time of 2:41:08; Bryan Ytac was second at 1:25:24; his series one time was 1:30:43 for a total time of 2:56:07; Angeles Alvarez was third at 1:25:29; his series one time was 1:38:40 for a total time of 3:04:09; and Boboy Aguilar came in last at 1:46:37; his series one time was 1:42:36 for a total time of 3:29:13.

In the 50-54 MTB category, Ricky Delos Santos was the only racer and came in with a time of 1:42:13; and in the 60-and-above category, Boboy Aguilar came in at 1:46:37; his series one time was 1:42:36 for a total of 3:39:13.

The third and last part of the series will be on Oct. 15 and will start at Radar before going to Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, Grotto, then returns to Banzai Cliff.

The 2023 Hell of Marianas series concludes with the 100-kilometer 2023 Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle on Dec. 2.

For more information, contact NMI Cycling Federation president Vince Seman at nmicycling@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of the second stage of the 2023 Hell of the Marianas held last Sunday in Marpi pose for a drone shot.

EDWARD

From page 20

of Sciences, the Ministry of Defence building, Andreyevsky and Krimsky bridges, buildings of the former chocolate factory 'Red October,' the Christ the Savior Cathedral, St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin. Best sightseeing package ever!" he said.

Dela Cruz, who was in Moscow with wife Anastasia and son Alexander to visit his in-laws, said the hardest part of the race was that organizers intentionally didn't start the gun until there was a full daylight.

"This was the hardest for me, I've never run a race over 3.1 miles in broad daylight. So what killed me was when I hit Mile 10 I miscalculated my hydration tank when it hit empty."

As for the easiest part of the 2023 Luzhniki Half Marathon, 31-year-old Airport Rescue Fire Fighting firefighter II said it's simply the absence of Saipan's notoriously energy zapping humidity.

"There was no Saipan humidity at all and we had the entire eight-way lane to ourselves. It was amazing and something we will never get on Saipan races so I took full advantage of it."

Dela Cruz then dedicated him completing the half marathon behind the former Iron Curtain to his wife and son.

"I was not going to do this if she didn't encourage me. She said I'd regret missing this chance. I'm completely fat and out of shape right now and I haven't ran farther than a mile for almost a year so I knew this was going to be brutal for my feet. It was my prerogative and best interest to finish the course as fast as possible because we still had a lot of touring to do," he said.

Dela Cruz also thanked organizers for a very well run race.

"Everyone was very nice and welcoming to me, especially running on the course. That's the great thing about the running community."

He did notice that he appeared to be the only non-Caucasian in the half marathon course, which for him was a bit odd.

"I saw some runners in Spanish singlets and African runners but they all signed up for the relay. I was the only brown guy in the half marathon solo."

Run Saipan secretary and treasurer Dr. Ron Snyder congratulated Dela Cruz for following his advice to club members after mainstays Chong Nam Lee and Ann Bang competed in running events in South Korea last June.

"I am very happy for president Ed that he is finally getting the chance to visit his wife's family and experience a bit of her homeland," he said.

The Saipan International School headmaster also gave Dela Cruz kudos for competing in Russia despite the current war in Ukraine and the inherent dangers that come with it.

"The current geopolitical reality must be complicating things for him but you can't keep Ed down. Leave it to him to find time amidst a hectic trip spanning a continent and several countries to sign up and run a half marathon. Go Ed, you make us all proud!"

Dela Cruz, for his part, said he was in no way worried about security when he ran the 2023 Luzhniki Half Marathon.

"I wouldn't know if there was [any possible danger] because I can't understand what they are saying. However, they hit a record-high with 8,000 plus runners. They did take great precaution. Military and police were all over the place. Getting into the race venue was like going through [Transportation Security Administration] at the airport."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. poses with, from left, Tanya Grachov, his wife Anastasia's best friend, son Alexander, and Anastasia after completing 2023 Luzhniki Half Marathon held last weekend in Moscow, Russia

MARLENE

From page 20

offense and defense."

In her short but productive time Down Under, Lumabi said that she observed different coaching styles and learned many offenses and defenses and how to execute them. She added, "Each team had a unique way of tackling the various teams they were playing against and had tactics to stop them."

When asked what stood out to her during her shadowing, she said it was "the shuffle offense, two sliding zone defenses, a mix of a 2-3 and 3-2 zone, and the presentation from core advantage. After coming home from my trip, I followed the warm-up 2.0; it was a game-changer. I felt less stiff than usual and was not as sore as before."

The program only selected two coaches out of 19 active coaches in the region that were nominated by their respective federations—one from Tonga named Siale Bain-Vet and Lumabi herself.

The program was named after former head coach Marty Handson from Victoria County, Australia, who passed away in 2016. He was involved in the development of athletes and coaches across all levels of the basketball community and his program supports empowering national federations through boosting grassroots programs, enabling access to coaching development across the region.

NMI

From page 20

Training Center in Koblerville, the 19-member team were given well wishes and good luck for their upcoming competition.

The ceremony was attended by NMIFA board members, NMIFA officials, parents, and supporters of the team.

In a message given by NMIFA president Jerry Tan, he said that the team of boys representing the NMI in China are a product of years of training, hard work by coaches, and support of their parents.

Tan added that with the NMI's recent win over Guam in the Marianas Football Cup early this month, that the NMI boys and girls "have what it takes to win." So, "this is something that you should all be proud of. It did not happen easily and it did not happen overnight," he said.

Of the team representing NMI in the EAFF championship, "we're here to witness and to celebrate another milestone. We want to congratulate every one of you for making the team—and enjoy. Enjoy the competition and enjoy Qingjdao."

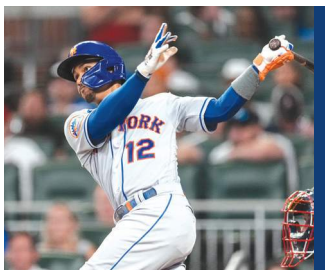
NMIFA Executive Committee member Catherine Attao-Toves also wished the team well. For her part, she said "I'm really excited for what you're going to experience."

For the players competing internationally for the first time, she said "embrace the opportunity and the experience that you're going to receive. Take note of those that have already experienced international exposure and just have fun with it. Do your best because we are proud of you. We know how much time and dedication it took for you to get to this point and to be selected for this final team."

She then thanked the NMIFA staff that will accompany them and said "I know you're going to take really good care of the team and represent us well."

The U15 team is made up of Terrel Kileleman-Hix, Taiga Namai-Scoggins, Aiden Camacho, Jayson Tagabuel, Michael Miller, Arstin Tagabuel, Mark Costales, Chan Woong Yeom, Chan Seo Yeom, Paul Lizama, Rooney Gil, Akoni Matsumoto, Bennet Haro, Bennetton Haro, Gaius Ranada, Yutaka Kadokura, Nolan Ngewakl, Moshe Sikkel, and Edward Arriola III.

Accompanying them are head coach Michiteru Mita, assistant coach Jireh Yobech, assistant coach Konomi Suzuki, team manager Mikky Vargas, assistant team manager Khristelle Itaas, and physical therapist Hazel Mabasa.



Mets launch 3 homers to beat MLB-leading Braves.

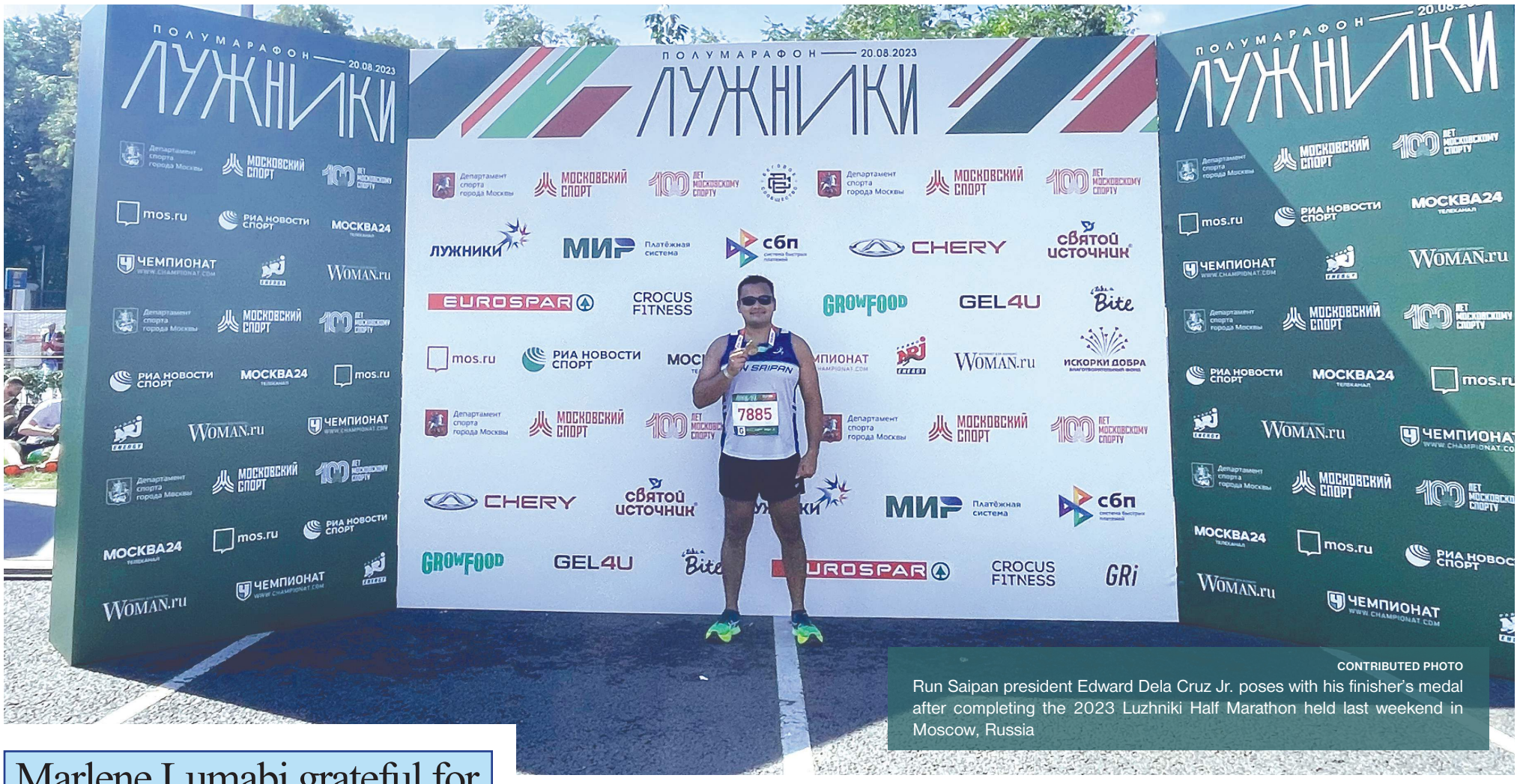
PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Joel Buco leads Hell of Marianas race series.

PAGE 19

Edward completes half marathon in Moscow



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. poses with his finisher's medal after completing the 2023 Luzhniki Half Marathon held last weekend in Moscow, Russia

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. heeded his own advice to club members by taking part in last weekend's 2023 Luzhniki Half Marathon in Moscow, Russia and completing it in a time of 2:27:29.

Dedicated to the history of the Luzhniki Sports Complex, the 21.1-kilometer race snakes along the Moskva River in central Moscow and Dela Cruz said he can't help but marvel at the ancient city's sites while running the half marathon.

"It was a very beautiful course. The start line was the Luzhniki Olympic Stadium. It then follows the Moskva river embankment so you get to see all major beautiful sites, while running. It was an out and back course so I got to see it all twice. I got to enjoy views of the 'golden brain,' the building of the Presidium of the Russian Academy

See EDWARD on Page 19

Marlene Lumabi grateful for FIBA coaching program

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marlene Lumabi, member of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation board of directors and coach for the U17 Girls National Team, is grateful for her experience in Melbourne, Australia for the FIBA Oceania's Coach Education Program—the Marty Handson Scholarship Program—in partnership with Basketball Victoria.

The program, which she flew out to last July 6 and returned July 18, was designed to help prepare coaches for upcoming tournaments in Oceania.

The 27-year-old member of the CNMI Senior National Basketball program said that, "I'm grateful to have met coaches who gave me an idea of how they would run practice and games."

She mentioned the helpful tips she learned were, "being simple on game day, reminding the team what they are good at, analyzing the other team's weaknesses and turning that into their advantage, and lastly, asking yourself as a coach what would I do if I came across the offense or defense I'm teaching my team and how do I counter it. Doing this will help prepare our team if the opponent tries to overwhelm our

See MARLENE on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marlene Lumabi poses for a photo in the basketball court in Melbourne, Australia during her trip for the FIBA Oceania's Coach Education Program-the Marty Handson Scholarship Program in partnership with Basketball Victoria last July 6-18.

NMI U15 men's soccer team off to EAFF tourney in China

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI U15 Men's National Soccer team is off to the FIFA Forward Developmental Programme EAFF U15 Men's Championship 2023 in Qingdao, China.

The championship is scheduled from Sept. 1 to 8 and the team is set to fly out on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

The team is in Group A and will first face off against Mongolia on Sept. 1. They will then take on Macau on Sept. 2, then South Korea on Sept. 3, and finally square off against China on Sept. 4.

In a send-off ceremony Monday evening at the NMI Soccer

See NMI on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

The NMI U15 Men's National Soccer team poses for a photo in their send-off ceremony Monday afternoon as they are off to the FIFA Forward Developmental Programme EAFF U15 Men's Championship 2023 in Qingdao, China. The championship is scheduled from Sept. 1 to 8 and the team is set to fly out on Tuesday, Aug. 29.